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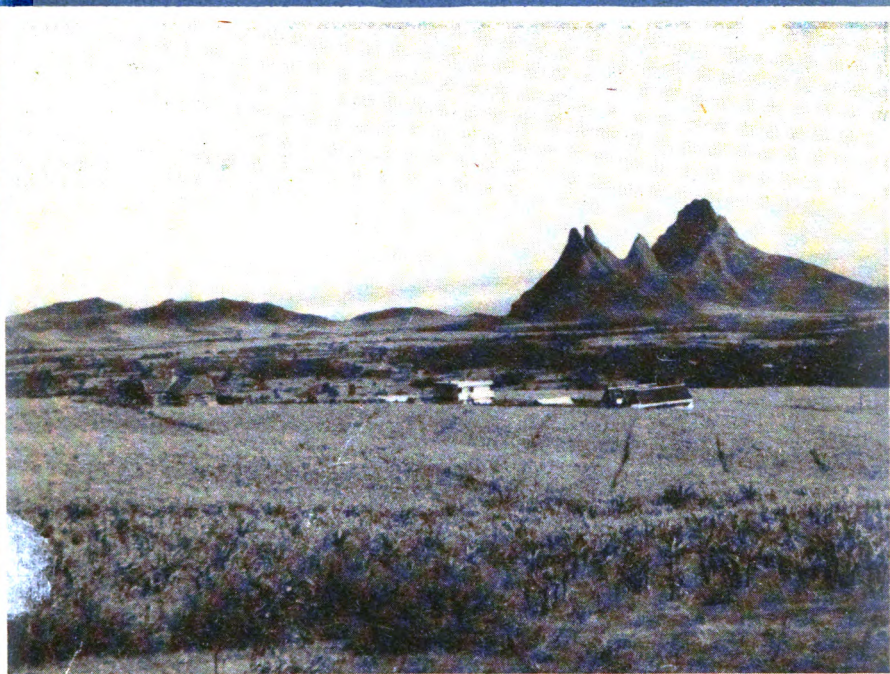
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COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

Mauritius

1948



LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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THE SERIES OF COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS
which was re-introduced for the year 1946 (after
suspension in 1940) is being continued with those
relating to 1948.

It is anticipated that the Colonies and Protectorates
for which 1948 Reports are being published will, with
some additions, be the same as for the previous year
(see list on cover page 3).

ANNUAL REPORT ON MAURITIUS FOR THE YEAR 1948

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1949

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The cover illustration shows the Trois Mamelles and Rempart Mountains
seen from Trou-aux-Ceres near Curepipe

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PART I

Review of 1948

CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The intention of His Majesty's Government to give the people of Mauritius a greater share in the conduct of their own affairs was fulfilled this year by the holding in August of general elections for the new Legislative Council constituted under the provisions of the Order in Council of the 19th December, 1947. Prior to this, protracted discussions on constitutional reform had led to a virtual stalemate. This was broken by the action of the Governor in submitting revised proposals in 1947 to the Secretary of State. These proposals, which were accepted, have endowed Mauritius with a constitution which places it far on the road to self-government.

The new Constitution provides for a Government consisting of a Governor, Executive Council and Legislative Council. It retains in the hands of the Governor the ultimate responsibility for governing the colony. In this he is aided by an Executive Council of seven or more members, and a Legislative Council of thirty-four members. On the Executive Council there are at present three Ex-officio members and four Appointed members, the latter selected from among the unofficial members of Legislative Council by their fellows in secret ballot for appointment by the Governor. Provision is made in the Royal Instructions for the appointment, if necessary, of additional members to Executive Council. The lower House has a large unofficial majority of 19 elected and 12 nominated members, the other three being the government members who also sit in Executive Council. By the wish of the people, as expressed in the Consultative Committee on the revision of the Constitution, the Governor continues to act as President of the Legislative Council. The vice-president of this body, who usually presides over the Council in Committee, is elected by vote of the members.

A very wide extension of the franchise is provided for by the new constitution, the main requirements for registration being residence and a simple literacy qualification. The property qualification which operated under former Constitutions has been abolished, and for the first time to vote has been given to women. The immediate result of these liberal provisions has been a six-fold extension of the electorate. There were 11,884 names on the

electoral roll on the 31st December, 1946. When registration was concluded on the 6th April, 1948, no less than 71,806 electors had been registered out of a grand total of 73,913 claimants.

General elections, the first to be held in thirteen years, took place on the 9th and 10th August. The pre-election campaigns had been vigorous and at times even heated, but the elections themselves were remarkably peaceful and orderly. They were also noteworthy for the unusually high percentage of voters to come to the polls. No less than 90.6% of those who were registered voted, and in the northern district of Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart the figure was 96%. The majority of the 54 candidates for election to the 19 seats available to them could best be described as Independents, the only team effort being that of the Mauritius Labour Party. The results of the elections were a triumph for the Indo-Mauritian candidates who captured all nine of the seats in the rural constituencies where the Hindu population is in an overwhelming majority and two of the seats in the mainly urban districts of Port Louis and Plaines Wilhems.

The balance was to a certain extent redressed by the Governor's choice of the 12 nominated members needed to make up the unofficial element in Council. Two members of the new Council are ladies, one elected and the other nominated.

The first session of the Legislative Council thus constituted, was opened on the 1st September 1948, by the Governor, Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy who read the address from the throne. Speaking of the new Constitution he said:

"whether it can be made to work to the general advantage of all Mauritians now depends entirely on the spirit in which the ladies and gentlemen to whom I am speaking approach the formidable tasks which await them. I must make one thing very clear: this Colony is British and British Standards are the standards by which my Government will continue to guide the course of events. In the words of Martin Luther "we can no other." Many of us are unfamiliar with parliamentary procedure and inexperienced in administration. We do not all yet appreciate the difficulties attendant upon the duties we are called upon to perform and I hope that the Council will successfully resist the ever-present temptation to decry the work of its predecessors. Let it not be said of us by future generations that we set out to prove our worth by condemning every one else. It is we who are now on trial, not our predecessors."

In the four last months of the year the new Council, despite its inexperience, showed itself to be very active indeed. Standing Orders provide for meetings on alternate Tuesdays, but early on the pressure of business was such that Council had to meet once a week from 11.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. or later. Despite this, the Order Paper became longer and longer, and by the end of the year considerable business of a purely legislative nature was outstanding.

AGRICULTURE

Sugar Industry. The record sugar crop of 348,000 metric tons harvested in 1947 was easily surpassed by the present crop of 392,000 metric tons. It is true that the island has been fortunate in not having any serious cyclones recently, but the weather should not take all the credit for these very gratifying results. They are due in large part to better field practice and factory manipulation, to a slightly improved supply of fertilizers and to the extension of the area under high-yielding canes developed by the Sugarcane Research Station.

Sugarcane Research Section. This valuable institution has on trial some new cane varieties which show much promise. The production of new and better canes is its main task, but it also operates an extension service to bring the results of its research to the small planters. It has also undertaken recently a considerable programme of work on secondary projects such as food and edible oil crops, the interplanting of foodcrops with cane, investigations into the fertilizer value of crushed basalt and extensive experiments with modern types of weed killers. It is estimated that as an outcome of this work on weed killers approximately 10,000 acres of land badly infested with weeds have been cleared. This method of weed destruction is, however, as yet too costly for large-scale use against one of the worst pests, the *herbe condé* or *Cordia Macrostachya*. An attempt is being made to solve this problem by biological control.

Secondary Industries. An effort to increase groundnut production by the introduction of seed from Uganda was only partially successful owing to the susceptibility of the plants to wilt disease. The policy was accordingly adopted of collecting in bulk seed of a local wilt-resistant variety for distribution to planters. The Agricultural Department has been carrying out an interesting experiment, now in its fourth year, on the cold-storage of seed potatoes. There has been no falling-off in yield over the period of trial and the crops have remained free of disease. It has also done considerable work on the improvement of local vegetables, and produced outstanding seed this year. Some progress has been made in the upgrading of dairy stock and pure bred Friesian bulls are stationed at stud throughout the Island. Much still remains to be done to raise the output of whole milk to satisfy the needs of the population.

It has now been conclusively demonstrated that there is a large area of land well suited to the cultivation of tea available for exploitation in the Colony. Most of this land is outside the margin of cultivation of sugarcane because of altitude, heavy rainfall and other climatic and soil factors. Good quality tea has been produced on land of this nature for many years. In the

opinion of expert advisers Mauritius could compete on equal terms in the world market with other tea producing countries, given proper control and improved cultivation, processing and marketing methods. The latter side of the industry was investigated in April by Mr. Sandy of the International Tea Bureau when he paid a short visit to the Colony. There are indications, however, that a really large expansion of the tea industry can be effected only by encroaching on the forest reserves of the Colony. This problem is at present under discussion by the Natural Resources Board. Meanwhile plantations have been extended under permit, seed has been imported, nurseries have been established from imported and selected local seeds to provide plants for a Tea Experimental Station.

The difficulty of obtaining skilled advice on the fibre industry was overcome when the services of Messrs. Lock and Lees were obtained. The valuable reports submitted by them point the way to the future development of this industry, and it is hoped that one of the most serious impediments to this development—the present inefficient and costly methods of decortication—may be overcome in the near future.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION

The Mauritius Economic Commission appointed in October 1947 under the Chairmanship of Mr. John H. Gorvin C.B.E., presented its report to the Governor on the 16th June, 1948. This Commission functioned as a Combined Working Party of overseas and local members, the latter representative of the main aspects of the economy of the Island. In addition to the Central Committee, which consisted of the members of the Commission and the chairman of Committees, there were no less than 14 committees and 4 sub-committees set up. The combined efforts of these groups resulted in a blue-print for the future prosperity of the island. To what extent this blue print can be translated into "something on the ground" is now under careful consideration. The wide scope of the enquiry may be gauged from the following list of topics investigated ; sugarcane production ; factory efficiency, organization and planning ; sugar industry finance ; overseas marketing of sugar ; agricultural production other than sugarcane ; livestock and land settlement ; health and welfare ; labour and employment ; wholesale and retail prices, cost of living and wages in Mauritius ; co-operative developments ; industries other than sugar ; forestry ; water resources ; nutritional needs ; transport ; shipping and trade.

Whatever may be the tangible results of the work of the Economic Commission, it can no longer be said that the economics of the sugar industry are obscure and that the needs of the people of this remote island colony have not been thoroughly investigated.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

After an initial setback caused by over-optimistic expectations, trade unionism in Mauritius has made steady progress in recent years. The credit for planting the seeds of a sense of responsibility in Mauritian trade unionists must as a whole be given to the late Mr. Anquetil whose death in 1946 was a severe loss to the movement. He was a man of outstanding qualities whose long stay in Europe and America had fitted him for the task of teaching the elements of trade union objects and organization to those workers in Mauritius who would listen to him. The Government of Mauritius has given and continues to give every encouragement to the promotion of genuine trade unionism, and has helped to overcome the apathy of the uninstructed. A Trade Union Adviser is attached to the Labour Department, Government servants have full trade union rights, annual agreements are concluded with the main industries by means of collective bargaining, and the principal trade unions are fully represented on all Commissions, Boards, and Committees appointed to deal with any matter in any way concerning labour. The aim of Government, of most employers, and of responsible trade union leaders, is to establish good relations between the trade unions and industry so that the intervention of Government will no longer be necessary—or even welcomed.

That this aim is still some distance from realization was borne out by an attempt made this year by one union to use the strike weapon for non-industrial purposes. The details of this incident are related in Chapter 6 of Part II under the heading "Stoppages during 1948." This irregular use of a legitimate weapon was not approved of by the other unions which form part of the Trade Union Council, and they refused to support the offender. This is a good augury for the future.

By the end of 1948 there were 26 Associations or Trade Unions in existence with a total book membership of 27,235. Industry, on its part, is organized into federations and syndicates, the most influential of which are the Sugar Producers' Association and the Federation of Port and Harbour Employers.

An increasingly important part in labour relations is being played by the Industrial Court which moves around the country and in a quiet, unassuming fashion smoothes out the difficulties which arise between capital and labour.

HEALTH SERVICES

Since funds from Development and Welfare became available the tempo of anti-malarial works which started in a small way during the war years has been considerably stepped up, and satisfactory progress has been made in the districts of Plaines Wilhems, Moka, Port Louis and Pamplemousses. These works

are mainly of an engineering nature, consisting of the draining of swamps and canalisation of rivers and streams. A second-front attack on the major scourge of this island was decided upon in 1947 when the Colonial Insecticides Committee of the Colonial Office decided to carry out here a large-scale experiment on the eradication of malaria by the use of insecticides alone. Preliminary measures were taken early this year by the recruitment of local labour and the carrying out of a census of all the buildings in the Colony. The medical team and field officers recruited in the United Kingdom arrived in Mauritius in November and spraying was started by the 13th December.

Progress has been made in the provision of additional accommodation at the Civil Hospital, Port Louis and the Mental Hospital, Beau Bassin. The plans for the construction of the Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Centres at Victoria Hospital, Candos, have been completed and the site acquired. It is hoped to begin construction in the early part of 1949.

Ante-natal clinics have been started in two hospitals and two mobile dispensaries are bringing a health service to the outlying villages. Experiments with different types of school meals have been carried out in the Grand Port district and proposals for an extension of the school meals service are being examined. The scarcity of medical officers makes a regular schools medical service impracticable at present, though the need for such a service is clearly realised. A school dental service is operating in the Port Louis area and it is proposed to establish a mobile dental unit for the other areas.

The continuing lack of professional and technical staff, particularly of doctors, nurses and midwives, has prevented progress in the establishment of district health services, but efforts are being made to provide training for candidates willing to take up nursing as a profession.

EDUCATION

There have been difficulties and delays in acquiring suitable sites for the new primary schools planned as part of the Colony's Development and Welfare scheme, but a start was made in the building programme by the extension carried out to Plaine des Papayes Government School.

Plans have been received from Professor Thornton White for the new residential Teachers' Training College. Meanwhile, in its temporary premises at Beau Bassin the Training College is trying to expand its teacher-output despite losses of tutorial staff. Shortage of senior staff has, in fact, overshadowed every branch of the Education Department's activities.

Despite the frustrations and strain resulting from chronic understaffing it can be said that the ground already won has been held and that advances have been made in some directions. This is particularly true of the schools' holiday camp, visual education, school meals, the beginnings of a schools medical and dental service and a big increase in the number of overseas scholarships awarded. Mauritian students in training overseas are undergoing courses in law; medicine; civil, chemical, electrical and mechanical engineering; education; social science; physiotherapy and occupational therapy; dentistry; mathematics; sugar technology; veterinary science; pharmacy; architecture and economics.

A welcome development in the Education service is the setting up of a Departmental Joint Committee at which the Director and a Senior Inspector meet the executive committee of the Government Teachers' Union for discussions on questions affecting the welfare of the primary school teaching service.

Close co-operation exists between the department and the Civil Commissioners who are keeping the head office in touch with the day-to-day problems of the rural schools.

Arising out of the visit to Mauritius of Mr. A. E. Nichols, C.B.E., Headmaster of Hele's School, Exeter, the main emphasis during 1948 has been placed on plans for secondary education. There are at present 34 secondary schools for boys and girls in Mauritius, handling a total of 5,600 pupils. A Supervisor of Secondary Schools, appointed on Mr. Nichols's recommendation, arrived towards the end of the year.

Speaking of education in his address on the opening of Legislative Council in September the Governor said:

"The ultimate objective of my administration in the field of education is free and compulsory instruction. There are many difficulties to overcome before this objective is attained and to contend that free, universal education can be brought into being in this island in a few months—or a few years—is to deceive ourselves and the public. We could run up a string of hovels and call them schools: we could staff them with hundreds of young men and women scarcely more literate than their pupils and call them teachers: we could train thousands of young and old to write their names and addresses and a few simple sentences and call that education. For my part I shall have nothing to do with such delusions, for I regard them as savouring of intellectual dishonesty. Let us by all means have a mass attack on illiteracy, but please do not call it education: literacy is only the beginning of education and if the attainment of literacy is not followed up by education based on sound principles we shall be lending ourselves to a system which may gravely prejudice the happiness and usefulness of generations of young Mauritians."

SOCIAL SERVICE AND SELF HELP

The movement to establish co-operative stores has, within a period of eighteen months, developed and expanded throughout the island to an unexpected degree. On 6th May, 1947, the first organization of this nature—the Morcellement St. André Co-operative Stores Society Ltd—was registered. By December 1947, fourteen stores were registered and twelve of these had opened their doors. During the next twelve months, the growth was six-fold—there being no less than 84 registered stores of which 55 were in operation, and another 12 on the waiting list for registration. The distribution of these shops throughout the island has been satisfactory. All the leading townships are served and a surprising feature has been the successful spread of co-operative stores in some of the remotest hamlets. Great credit is due to all concerned, and the societies are assured of continued encouragement, maximum assistance and minimum interference.

To complete the picture of the development of co-operation on the island mention must be made to the 90 active credit societies handling their members' crops of sugarcane and leaf tobacco, the 9 thrift and savings societies registered by the end of December, the 2 co-operative ginger marketing societies and—most ambitious of all—the Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank registered on the 8th October, 1948.

Another example of self-help is afforded by the admirable work of the ex-servicemen established at Montebello, a mixed farm handling agricultural crops and animal husbandry. Its poultry and rabbit sections have already established a reputation for good quality among consumers.

In no branch of social service is there greater need for co-ordinating the work of the volunteer and the official than in the alleviation of distress and the relief of destitution. In this field there has been striking progress during the year under review ; the Public Assistance administration is being steadily decentralized and the public increasingly brought into the distribution of relief. Public Assistance Committees of unofficial workers, both men and women, are now functioning all over the island. Rehabilitation schemes for the benefit of the inmates have been started in the infirmaries. In the orphanages the introduction of the "god-mother" scheme, whereby generous persons "adopt" an orphan and visit it regularly, has brought a measure of happiness to many of these unfortunate children. Finally, a project was launched by the Public Assistance Advisory Board towards the end of the year to alleviate the distress of the poorer children of this island. An island-wide collection on behalf of the " Help the Children Fund " was launched on the 22nd December and met with a generous

response. This project was not an attempt to shift Government responsibility on to the shoulders of the public. As the Governor said in referring to it:

"In matters of social service money is not always a decisive consideration. What is needed is service, and this can only be given in the fullest measure if all of us play our part."

LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

The campaign started in 1947 by the newly appointed Food Production Board has resulted in a considerable increase in local supplies. The acreage under maize, rootcrops and groundnuts increased threefold over the 1947 figure, and it is estimated that the total area under all foodcrops is about 28,000 acres. The small planter has responded much better to this scheme than the large sugar estate owner who has been concentrating on getting his fields back into full production after the difficult war years. As a short-term measure the campaign has been quite successful, but the development of food production on sound lines will depend largely on the extent to which the land settlement scheme can be financed, either from local or from Imperial resources. The small planter, limited by lack of funds, machinery, fertilizers and knowledge of sound husbandry, has a tendency to exhaust the land by his inefficient methods of cultivation. Development on sound lines implies larger units, greater security and length of tenure and closer control over cultivation.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Our transport problems have been examined by the Economic Commission and by Professor Thornton White in connection with his town-planning schemes for Port Louis and upper Plaines Wilhems. Although the Railways are still the backbone of the transport system of the Colony there are strong arguments for shifting the traffic gradually from rail to road. There are over 750 miles of tarred and metalled public roads in the island, but the rapid growth of uncoordinated passenger and goods transport services and of private motoring has outmoded the road system. A decision must shortly be taken as to whether the present confusion should be allowed to continue indefinitely or be replaced by properly organized road services involving State-controlled monopolies at reasonable and economic rates.

This year is the tenth anniversary of the transfer of the telephone service to public ownership. In these ten years the system has been modernised and extended from the townships to embrace the whole of the Colony. An all-island flat rate call-charge has replaced the graded inter-exchange rates, and the number of subscribers has increased four-fold. The telephone service is now an important factor in the business and social life of the Colony.

With tariffs substantially the same as pre-war the cost of the service is now within reach of small shopkeepers and low salary groups. To provide for this potential demand orders have been placed for additional equipment including automatic exchanges.

There has also been a tremendous increase in the demand for electricity. The number of units consumed is now over three times the figure for 1938. With war-time difficulties in obtaining labour and materials, the pre-war plans for increasing the Colony's generating resources were held up, with the result that demand has over-taken supply and cuts have had to be imposed from time to time during the peak periods. These plans are now being put into execution, and should be completed in about three years' time. They will allow of the generation of about twice the amount of electricity now available.

The production of electricity is at present in the hands of private companies. Steps have been taken to seek expert outside advice in the matter of the production and distribution of electrical energy and of the control of electrical undertakings. The visit of a representative of a firm of consulting engineers has been arranged for the early part of 1949.

External communications have not yet returned to normal, particularly in regard to passenger shipping services. The bottleneck has been relieved by the post-war development of commercial air services linking the Colony with South and East Africa and with Europe. An extension of these services in 1949 is foreseen. Telecommunications are assured by the Cable and Wireless station in Port Louis and by a radio ship-to-shore station operated by the Government.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The development of local government was commented upon in these words by the Governor in a message to Legislative Council at the opening of the present session :

" Most honourable members are aware of the importance which my Government attaches to the steady extension to the rural areas of a sound system of local Government, springing from the desires of the people and not hastily imposed upon them from above ; developed from stage to stage by the people and not shaped too hurriedly by the overzealous administrator or politician ; taking on such new responsibilities as they feel able effectively to exercise ; making the fullest use of voluntary service, resisting all attempts at standardisation, which so often results in frustration and disappointment. There is a wide gap between the Village Council comprising a few enthusiastic volunteers and the fully elected, almost autonomous Municipality. I pray you not to attempt to

lessen that gap too rapidly: you may stifle some very healthy growths. Above all it is to be earnestly hoped that these councils will not be the sport of partisan politics and I appeal to honourable members to ensure that they do not. Six years ago I had occasion to comment upon the lack of any real links between the villager and the Government at Port Louis: with the assistance of a number of public spirited ladies and gentlemen and by the establishment of Civil Commissioners, the gap has been partially filled. It would, in my view, be almost criminal to destroy a system which has been so carefully watched over and nourished, which is being extended and which assures to the people early examination of their difficulties and prompt remedial measures where such measures are possible."

By the end of 1948 three Civil Commissioners had been appointed for the rural districts of the island, and about sixty village councils were in existence. Many of these are well established, have won the confidence of the villagers and are doing excellent constructive work. No small part of the success being achieved by the District Administration is due to the willingness of heads of departments to encourage their district officers to collaborate with the Civil Commissioners without constant reference to headquarters. This is enabling a district team to be built up to deal quickly with the complaints and grievances which flow daily into the district administration headquarters.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

A close liaison has developed between the Civil Commissioners and the Public Relations Office which shed its war-time garb in 1946 when it became a section of the Central Administration. For the greater part of 1948 the substantive Public Relations Officer also filled the post of Civil Commissioner for the northern districts of Pamplémousses and Rivière du Rempart, the holder of this post being absent on sick leave.

The Public Relations Office handles all the Government's publicity material through its issue to the press and radio of departmental notices, its press cutting and daily press report services and its publications, both regular and specialised. It has administrative control over the Mauritius Broadcasting Service, a Government organisation which transmits programmes for a total of six hours daily to the families of 5,000 licencees and which monitors various morse news services for issue to the local press and government departments. It also operates a Mobile Cinema Unit which gave 199 shows to an estimated total of 330,000 people in the rural districts of the island. The units normally keep away from the township areas which are well served by commercial cinemas.

DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE

Before the establishment of the Ten Year Plan finance was the main limiting factor in the prosecution of works of development and welfare. Now the financial side is satisfactory but progress is being hampered by lack of materials and of specialist staff. The supply of materials is slowly improving but staff is still very difficult to obtain.

PUBLIC WORKS

Five buildings were completed during 1948, including a dental clinic in Port Louis, a child-welfare centre at Quatre Bornes and a domestic and handicrafts centre at Rose Hill. Works in progress, but not completed by the end of the year include another child welfare centre and domestic and handicraft centre and further extensions to two of the government hospitals. Good progress has been made on the new road from Curepipe to Quartier Militaire which will save about seven miles for traffic going from upper Plaines Wilhems to Flacq district. The bitumen treatment of the main roads is progressing according to plan.

It is hoped to complete the construction of Mare Longue reservoir by June 1949 and to move the construction gangs from there to Piton du Milieu where another reservoir of the same capacity as Mare Longue (i.e., 220 million cub. feet), is to be constructed. A reinforced concrete service reservoir has been constructed at Goodlands in the north of the island and about six miles of water mains laid in the area. In Flacq district another seven miles of water mains have been laid.

As a sequel to Dr. Hamlin's visit in 1947 to advise on the sewerage and sewage disposal in Plaines Wilhems district, a preliminary survey was carried out this year by a South African firm of surveyors. The drawing of the levelling net work is now being completed in the Union. Dr. Hamlin has been engaged as consulting engineer on a 3 year contract.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

Professor L. W. Thornton-White, F.R.I.B.A., M.I.A., who was engaged to advise on the town and country planning of the colony, paid his first visit in February 1947. He has since returned for brief visits on a number of occasions, on one of which he was accompanied by Mr. Leo Silberman of the Department of Social Service, University of Liverpool. Professor Thornton-White's Master Plan of Port Louis is almost completed, and Mr. Silberman's report on the social survey of Port Louis will be available in early 1949. Designs for a Teachers' Training College and for primary schools have also been made by Professor Thornton-White, and his report on housing in Mauritius is to be published early in 1949.

MAURITIUS-SEYCHELLES FISHERIES SURVEY

In February 1947 Dr. J. F. G. Wheeler, Marine Biologist, was appointed Director of the Mauritius-Seychelles Fisheries Survey. The Scottish diesel-engined drifter which was equipped to carry out this survey arrived in Seychelles on the 24th December, 1947, and the work of surveying the banks was begun early in 1948. It is as yet too early to give results, but encouraging data have been obtained from a survey of the Aldabra Islands, Assumption, Cosmoledo and the Fortune and Saya da Malha banks in the Seychelles area. It is estimated that as much as 50-60 tons of fish per man per annum can be taken by line fishing on these unexploited banks. Biological research on the fish taken by the crew of the survey is being carried out, and a biochemist has now joined the survey.

AGRICULTURE

Reference is made in Part II of this report to the brilliantly successful sugarcane, known as the M.134/32 produced by the Sugarcane Research Station. This cane now occupies 90% of the total area under cane. This heavy predominance of one cane variety in a one-crop Colony is obviously very dangerous and the Research Station has been working at full pressure, despite shortage of staff, to find one or more canes equal or superior to the M.134/32. New cane varieties have also been imported from Barbados, Canal Point, U.S.A., and from Australia.

Experimental work on weed-killers has been vigorously continued. Many of these weed-killers are highly selective in their action, so that one weed may be completely killed leaving a clean field for invasion by other noxious weeds. Consequently, considerable work has been done with the object of finding a weed-killer which will suppress all weeds, and a fairly satisfactory formula has now been worked out.

Research on tobacco was limited by the vacancy in the post of Government Tobacco Officer. However, trials were conducted to obtain a variety of tobacco free from the objectionable tang which has so far marred the type of tobacco grown in Mauritius. Seeds of the hybrid of Bonanza and Amarello varieties, which had given better results than had either of the parent varieties, were produced in sufficiently large quantities to plant about 10 acres in different districts in order to establish whether the hybrid is definitely superior when grown on a large scale.

EDUCATION

Pending the construction of a modern residential college at Côte d'Or, the Teachers Training College has continued to make use of the temporary buildings at Beau Bassin, and despite the inadequacy of accommodation steady progress has been made in

the training of competent teachers for the primary schools. A Model School attached to the College was started in January 1948. It is sufficiently isolated from the College proper to act as an independent unit, but sufficiently near to be easily accessible for demonstration lessons and for allowing the College Staff to experiment in methods.

Life at the Training College is run on co-operative lines and the students are assigned various duties in addition to their academic work. Tidying and cleaning the College buildings, serving at table and washing up afterwards, digging the College garden and taking care of the livestock, any odd jobs that crop up and are within the power of the students to do are done unobtrusively and cheerfully. This would not appear remarkable in a servantless England but is so in Mauritius where a servant problem does not exist.

Six Colonial Development and Welfare Scholarships were awarded during 1948, of which three were for education courses and one each for engineering, law and public health.

HEALTH

The eradication of malaria has been continued as energetically as possible by abolishing the breeding places of the mosquitoes and by seeking their elimination through the application to dwelling places of D.D.T. and other insecticides. Marshes have been drained in Curepipe, Moka and at Beau Plan in Pamplemousses district. A considerable programme of canalizing drains and rivers, including lining with cut stone, was carried out in the districts of Plaines Wilhems, Moka, Port Louis and Pamplemousses. Maintenance works, comprising the cleaning of rivers, upkeep of existing works, oiling and the elimination of natural and man-made nuisances, were carried out during the year in each of the nine districts of the island. A large-scale experiment, sponsored by the Colonial Insecticides Committee, for the eradication of malaria by chemical means was started in December 1948. The results of this experiment, if successful, will have repercussions far beyond the limits of this small island.

The work done by the Nutrition Officer during the year under review has been chiefly experimental. In the schools the object has been to find out the best form of food to give to the children. As a result of surveys carried out in Public Assistance Institutions further financial assistance for the purchase of food has been granted, and the diets in the Infirmaries and Orphanages improved. Helpers trained by the Nutrition Officer are giving practical demonstrations in the institutions. A survey of food consumption undertaken in a Black River village has given useful information not only about the food habits of the people but also about the

methods to follow in carrying out such surveys. Experiments have also been carried out in the use of food yeast to determine how far it will be possible to import it on a large scale and make it available to the general public. It is hoped to find some means of putting it into foods universally consumed.

FINANCIAL

The Development and Welfare estimates for 1948-49 were held back for presentation to the new Legislative Council. They were referred in October to a Select Committee of the whole Council. This committee completed its examination and reported back to Council on the 4th December recommending the adoption of the estimates subject to certain minor amendments. Council had not passed these estimates by the end of the year.

DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

In May 1948, the Governor set up a Development Authority to control the expenditure of all sums allocated for development purposes, supervise the co-ordinated execution of the plans approved, consider new projects, authorise the purchase of stores and plant, assign priority of execution as between works and projects, negotiate contracts, engage subordinate staff and make recommendations for the employment of superior staff, ensure that ex-servicemen and women be given priority in employment on these projects and generally act as controller of all development and welfare works and projects.

CONCLUSION

Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy wrote in 1946:

"the welfare of the inhabitants of any land is inseparable from the development of its resources. The natural riches of Mauritius cannot be fully exploited except by a people of high productive capacity. Upon increased production depend full employment and social security. The present productive capacity of Mauritius is low: except by improvement in health and a general improvement in the conditions of life it cannot be increased to any appreciable extent."

Mauritius has taken an immense stride forward in the political field, but that will avail it little if corresponding progress is not made in the economic and social spheres. The Development and Welfare Ten Year plan was drawn up to ensure the best use of all available resources and to bring about an improvement of the conditions in which the people of Mauritius have to live their lives. The plan is still in its infancy and little progress of a material nature has been achieved, but with the gradual return of normal conditions to a harassed world the rate of progress, here as elsewhere, should be accelerated. At least it can be said that a good groundwork has been laid,

PART II

Chapter I : Population

THE principal sources from which the population of Mauritius has been drawn are :

- (1) the French immigrant ;
- (2) people of African and Malgache origin ;
- (3) the Chinese trader ;
- (4) the Indian indentured labourer and the Indian merchant ;
- (5) the British official, merchant and planter ; to which might be added minor influxes from Ceylon.

For statistical purposes the convention has been adopted of dividing the whole population into three classes: (1) the General Population, comprising Europeans and descendants of Europeans, and people of African and mixed origins ; (2) the Indian Population proper, made up of Indian immigrants and their unmixed descendants ; and (3) the Chinese Population consisting of immigrants from China and their descendants. Of these three classes, the Indian constitutes the largest percentage (63%) of the total population. This Indian population is divided into two main groups, Hindus and Moslems, in the ratio of about 3.5 to 1. The Chinese are the smallest racial group, constituting only about 2½% of the total population. They are engaged for the most part in trade, and practically monopolise the retail grocery and liquor trade of the Island.

The total population of Mauritius is at present approximately 447,000, not counting the 15,000 inhabitants of the neighbouring islands which are dependencies of Mauritius. The present population is 2.8 times what it was a century ago. It has been steadily increasing in the course of the last ten years at an average rate of 4,330 per annum, or by 10 persons per thousand of population. The density of population in different parts of this small island covering barely 720 square miles is extraordinarily variable. In the low-lying western district there is a population density of little more than a hundred persons to the square mile ; but on the central plateau migration has brought about a concentration of more than 1,500 to the square mile. In the towns there is considerable overcrowding: in the capital, Port Louis, recent census enumeration has revealed the existence of 27,000 persons over a single square mile ; while in the second largest town, Curepipe, the number of inhabitants per unit area has increased by 40% in the last 13 years. In fact, 37% of the total population at present live in towns. The populations of the principal townships are :

(1) Port Louis	...	...	57,466	(3) Rose Hill—Beau Bassin	...	26,612
(2) Curepipe	...	...	27,468	(4) Quatre Bornes	...	11,100

SEX DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION

One noteworthy feature of ethnical significance differentiating the two main classes of the population is to be found in the sex distribution ; whereas in the General Population the number of females has always been in excess of the number of males, in the Indian Population it is almost exactly the reverse and this feature has been noteworthy for at least the past 25 years. It is not accounted for by the preponderance in birth rate of the one sex ; for although it is true for the Indian, it is not for the General Population, in which the male births have always been slightly in excess.

The disproportion between the sexes in Mauritius is of long standing and was due in the beginning to the preponderance of male immigration. This disproportion has been gradually readjusting itself by a natural process in the course of the past century, though the effect may still persist to a certain degree in the Indian class of the population. There are, however, definite indications from the results of the census of 1944 that after the age of 50 the survival of the female in the General Population is greater than that of the male. In the Indian Population it is after the age of 60 that the survival of the female is markedly greater than that of the male.

BIRTH-RATES

The birth rates in the General Population which had dropped during the decade 1936-1945 from an average of about 36 per thousand in 1936 to about 32 per thousand in 1945 reverted to 37 per thousand in 1947 ; the birth-rate has recently increased very remarkably in the Indian Population ; in 1943 it was 33 per thousand ; in 1944 it rose to 50.6 per thousand (the highest level on record) and in 1945 and 1946 it remained at about 42 per thousand ; in 1947 it rose to 48 per thousand and the number of births has not declined in 1948.

DEATH-RATES

The death rate, which was at a previous ten-year average level of 28.3 per thousand for the whole population, increased to 36.1 per thousand in 1945, the year of two severe cyclones, and to 29.5 in 1946. In 1947 the death rate dropped to the lowest level on record: 20.1 per thousand. The death-rate for the whole population is still on a low level—23.8 in 1948. Death rate is, as a rule, markedly higher in the Indian Population, and the mortality in this community is very appreciably higher among the males than among the females, to the extent of 10% and occasionally 15%.

Infantile mortality is comparatively high in Mauritius. It oscillates around 150 per thousand live births, but in 1945 it reached the very high figure of 188 per thousand. In 1946, it was 145.4 and in 1947, 113.9 per thousand.

The 1944 Census revealed that about 35% of the marriageable persons of both sexes in the General Population were married according to religious rites or by civil contract. In the Indian Population the corresponding percentage is 50.

WORKERS AND SCHOOLCHILDREN

The number of workers, excluding intellectuals and professional workers, is approximately 135,000, of which 52% are agricultural workers.

There is a seasonal variation of about 8,000 in the number of workers fully employed in the sugar industry, the figures varying from about 59,000 during the crop season to 51,000 in the inter-crop. Taking the yearly average at 55,000, there are about 4,000 men engaged as artisans and drivers, and 51,000 men, women and children as labourers, mainly in the fields. About 16,000 small planters are engaged in cultivating their own plots. Many of these work on the bigger estates as daily paid labourers during the crop season. Although the individual holding is small, the small-planter group cultivates a quarter of the total cane acreage of 145,000 arpents, and produces slightly under 20% of the crop.

Secondary industries provide employment for about 5,000 artisans and 10,000 labourers; the docks employ about 600 workers, printing firms about 400, and 1,500 find employment as shop assistants.

During 1948 there were 43,000 pupils in the 131 Government and State Aided Primary Schools on the island, with an average attendance of 72%. The 4 primary schools in the main dependency of Rodriguez provided education for another 1,800 schoolchildren. The number of children attending secondary schools amounts to slightly over 6,000. 45% of the General Population of both sexes claim to be able to read and write. Among the Indian Population, the corresponding claim was 21% for males and about 6% for females.

Religious creeds in Mauritius correspond roughly to the classification adopted for dividing up the population. Nearly 98% of the General Population are Christians of the Church of Rome or of the Church of England; 77% of the Indians are Hindus, 22% are Mahomedans; the remainder are christianized Indians. The Chinese are almost exclusively Buddhists.

Chapter II : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

The value of the sugar annually exported from Mauritius represents on an average more than 96% of the total value of all exports from the Colony. Thus the sugar industry governs the entire economy of the island, it embraces not only the whole complex of persons directly or indirectly interested in the planting of sugarcane and in the manufacture of sugar and its bye-products, those interested in the financing of the cultivation, manufacture and marketing of the product but also affects very largely the public revenue and those classes of people such as merchants and bankers, the major part of whose business is connected therewith.

Figures concerning employment in the sugar industry are given in the previous chapter in the section dealing with workers. Much of the estate work is still of a manual nature, though mechanization of field work is being pushed as rapidly as imports of bulldozers, rotary ploughs and tractors and the rocky nature of the soil permit. Because of this latter factor it is unlikely that the industry can ever become fully mechanized. So long as Mauritius grows sugar there will be a place for the hand hoe, cutting knife and sickle.

OTHER OCCUPATIONS

Other occupations include the aloe fibre (*Furcraea Gigantea*) industry, which produces fibre for making bags for the sugar industry ; the tea industry, which is at present operating on a comparatively small scale and producing tea for local consumption, tobacco growing ; food crops and the cultivation of vegetables ; and the rearing of milch cows and livestock upon a small scale.

Minor industries include fishing, sawmills, garages, workshops, salt pans, lime kilns, furniture manufacture, charcoal burning, match manufacture, the preparation of hides and skins, tanning and boot and shoe manufacture, clothing and shirt manufacture, printing, etc.

Apart from agricultural and industrial occupations, many of the population are employed as clerical workers, both in commerce and Government service, and as domestic servants.

Unemployment is not yet a serious problem in the Island though the steady increase in the size of the population gives grounds for concern. There is some seasonal under-employment in the sugar industry which is largely the result of maldistribution of labour. This is in part counteracted by the issue of permits for transportation by lorry of labourers from one part of the island to another. In the other industries, unemployment is prevalent among the non-manual workers.

WAGES

The level of wages is largely determined by the rates prevailing in the sugar industry. In this industry minimum rates of wages for workers of the artisan category (represented by the Mauritius Engineering and Technical Workers' Union) and for labourers (represented by the Mauritius Amalgamated Labourers' Association) were negotiated by collective bargaining between the two unions and the employers' organisation, the Sugar Producers' Association. The principle of collective bargaining has also been adopted by dock workers, by workers in the Electricity supply companies, workers of the artisan category who are members of the Mauritius Engineering and Technical Workers' Union and the respective employers' organisations. The wages of workers in most other industries are thought to be sufficiently protected in general by the minimum rates payable in the sugar industry because of the element of competition for labour. In certain industries, however, where the trade union organisation is weak and incapable of fully representing the interests of its members, recourse has been had to orders issued under the Minimum Wage Ordinance. Orders of this nature have been issued in respect of workers in the printing trade and of shop assistants.

WAGE RATES

Wage rates in the sugar and other industries are complicated by subdivision into different categories of work and different categories of worker. Typical minimum rates are:

Sugar Industry

(a) MONTHLY EMPLOYEES

Labourers—Men: Class I.	Rs. 30.00 p.m. (Basic rate)
	Rs. 6.00 p.m. (Regularity bonus)
	Rs. 4.50 p.m. (End of crop bonus)
	Rs. 22.50 p.m. (Cost of living bonus)

Total: Rs. 63.00 p.m.

Women: Class I.

Total: Rs. 41.81 p.m. (Basic rate + bonuses)

Artizans: Rs. 52.50—Rs. 262 p.m.

Overtime, sickness allowance, housing accommodation, paid holidays and annual leave are also provided for.

(b) DAILY WORKERS

Labourers—Men : Class I.	Rs. 1.60 per day (Basic rate)
	Rs. 1.20 per day (Cost of living bonus)

Total Rs. 2.80 per day

Women: Class I. Rs. 1.31 per day (Including cost of living bonus)

Artizans: Rs. 1.98—Rs. 4.38 per day.

Other Industries

Dock Workers	Rs. 65.00—Rs. 130.00 p.m. Rs. 2.20—Rs. 7.70 per day
Artizans	Rs. 85.00—Rs. 150.00 p.m. Rs. 2.00—Rs. 6.00 per day
Printing Workers	Rs. 3.00—Rs. 5.25 per day
Shop Assistants	Rs. 60.00—Rs. 160.00 p.m.

HOURS OF WORK

In all cases where workers are employed upon a time-basis the day is 8 hours long ; but where employed upon a task or piece-work basis it may be only 5 hours. In the sugar industry the number of hours worked per man per week during 1948 has been calculated at 40. Government office hours are from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., with half an hour's break for lunch. Business offices follow more or less the same hours of work.

COST OF LIVING

(a) for Officials

For a government officer whose home is in the United Kingdom the cost of living in Mauritius is somewhat high. House rent tends to rise if the lease is short and the houses are in no way designed to be labour saving. It is therefore necessary to employ a fairly large staff of servants. Cheap transport is only available during certain hours of the day, so that for shopping expeditions, social obligations and family outings a private motor car is almost essential. Many of the articles for sale in the shops and elsewhere have no fixed price and local inhabitants can buy at a cheaper rate than the foreigner. Most goods have to be imported, so the cost of transport and customs duty is added to the original retail price. A rough-and-ready basis of calculation in buying articles is that the rupee (1/6) equals the shilling. Intestinal illness is common and drugs and doctors are no cheaper than in England. An English government officer with a wife and one child would have to choose a small house and lead a very quiet life if he wished to live within an income of Rs. 600 per month.

(b) for local workers

The cost of living index number, as compiled for working class families, rose from 119.3 in January 1948 to 127.7 in December 1948, as compared with the basic rate of 100 for March, 1946.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The Labour Department which was set up in 1938 when it became lawful for workers to form associations to regulate their relations with employers, now consists of the Labour Commissioner, three Assistant Commissioners, two Factory Inspectors, ten Field Officers, of whom one is a woman, and a small clerical staff. Working in cooperation with the Labour Department are the

Registrar of Trade Unions, the Chairman of Conciliation Boards, and the Reabsorption Officer and staff in charge of the Employment exchange for ex-servicemen.

The main duties of the Labour Department staff are :

- (a) to secure the enforcement of the provisions of the law relating to hours of work, wages, safety, health and welfare, the employment of children and young persons, and other connected matters ;
- (b) to supply information and advice to the parties concerned about the most effective means of complying with the provisions of the law ;
- (c) to bring to the notice of Government any defects or abuses not specifically covered by existing legal provisions ; and
- (d) to help to initiate and to maintain machinery for the settlement of collective disputes.

For these purposes the island is divided into five districts each in charge of a Labour Field Officer. These officers each have within these districts several offices of a simple nature which they attend on fixed days at fixed times. Complaints may be lodged at these offices either by workers themselves, or by Trade Union officials on their behalf. The Labour Field Officers investigate such complaints and are usually able to settle the matter by making an enquiry and putting the full facts briefly and clearly to the parties. In case of failure they may, according to circumstances, either refer the case to the Industrial Court for settlement, if necessary assisting the parties to do so, or report the case to the Head Office which then despatches one of the officers charged with conciliation duties in an endeavour to resolve the difficulty.

If the departmental conciliation efforts are not successful and the matter seems likely to develop into a trade dispute the Labour Commissioner may either refer the dispute for discussion at a higher level between the workers' and employers' associations or, if he is not satisfied that all reasonable steps are being taken to settle the dispute by agreement between the parties, he may appoint a Conciliation Board to consider and endeavour to settle the dispute. If this fails the next step is the submission of the dispute to a Court of Arbitration, but both parties must consent to this course. The Governor has power to impose compulsory arbitration in exceptional cases where the interests of the community as a whole are threatened.

The Labour Field Officers are also required to collaborate with the various employers' and workers' organisations, particularly in connection with the District Unemployment Committees headed by the Civil Commissioners. In the recruitment of labour they also cooperate with the Civil Commissioners and the Departmental Officers in the districts. The Labour Field Officers are in addition

required to inspect regularly all work-places within their districts and to report upon individual inspections in the case of the larger workplaces. Their duties involve a considerable amount of travelling and it is essential for them to have their own means of transport ; loans for the purchase of cars or motorcycles are made by Government for this purpose.

LABOUR ORGANISATIONS

Labour has organised itself into 26 Associations or Trade Unions composed of 12 associations of employees, 7 of employers, 5 of Government Servants, and 2 of persons working for themselves. The total membership on the rolls is given as 27,235. Of these the most important workers' organisations are:

	<i>No. shown on roll</i>	<i>No. who have ceased to be members</i>	<i>No. of members on 31.12.48</i>
Mauritius Engineering and Technical Workers Union	6,036	3,905	2,131
General Port and Harbour Workers Union	1,500	200	1,300
General Workers Union	Not	Yet	Registered
Government Public Works Manual Workers' Union	1,469	450	1,019
Mauritius Amalgamated Labourers' Association	10,729	7,594	3,135
Government Servants and Employees Association	3,446	1,239	2,207
Railway Workers Union	954	119	835
Government Teachers Union	461	—	461

(Estimate of membership as recorded at the 31st December, 1948 by the Registrar of Industrial Associations).

The more influential employers' organisations are:

	<i>No. of members on 31.12.48</i>
Sugar Producers Association	74
Federation of Port and Harbour Employers	12
Tobacco Producers Syndicate	52
Planters Association	406

A fillip was given to the development of trade unionism upon sound lines by the arrival in February 1948, of Mr. J. Stirling, an officer of considerable experience with trade unions both in the United Kingdom and in other Colonial territories. He ranks as Assistant Labour Commissioner (Trade Unions). Considerable progress, largely due to his efforts, has been made in the conduct of trade union affairs generally, and in the development of a greater sense of responsibility in the case of more advanced associations of skilled workers and Government employees.

LEGISLATION

The main legislation affecting labour relations is:

The Labour Ordinance	... ..	No. 47 of 1938.
The Women and Young Persons and Children Ordinance	... ..	No. 37 of 1934, No. 16 of 1935 and No. 43 of 1945.
The Factories Ordinance	... ..	No. 42 of 1946.
The Shop Hours Ordinance	... ..	No. 3 of 1942, No. 56 of 1945 and No. 72 of 1946.
The Industrial Associations Ordinance	... ..	No. 7 of 1938.
The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance	... ..	No. 13 of 1931, No. 64 of 1947 as variously amended.
The Employment Exchange Ordinance	... ..	No. 67 of 1947.
The Trade Disputes Ordinance	... ..	No. 68 of 1947.
The Minimum Wages Ordinance	... ..	No. 41 of 1934.
The Apprenticeship Ordinance	... ..	No. 13 of 1946.
The Recruitment of Workers Ordinance	... ..	No. 3 of 1938.
The Emigration Ordinance	... ..	No. 12 of 1933.

During the course of the year the Labour Ordinance was amended to allow medical practitioners engaged by estates to be paid their fees directly by the estate instead of through the medium of Government (Ordinance No. 36 of 1948). Regulations were also issued under the same ordinance presenting the requirements concerning houses for labourers employed on estates and concerning sanitary arrangements. (Government Notice No. 123 of 1948). Every house built under the provisions of these regulations must be provided with kitchen, bathroom, and latrine accommodation. Other Government Notices concerned minimum rates of wages for the Printing Trade, four agreements on salaries and conditions of employment, and four arbitration awards.

THE REABSORPTION OFFICE

In common with other countries Mauritius has had to provide machinery for the resettlement in civil life of the thousands of men and women who were on active service during and after the war. A National Service Office, which functioned until the end of June 1948, consisted of two branches—the Reabsorption Office and the Occupational Registration. The latter has now been closed down, but the Reabsorption Office continues to provide a measure of financial assistance to released serving men and women pending their resettlement in civilian occupations. Funds for this purpose are administered by an Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Fund Committee, and are obtained from the Lotteries (H.M. Forces) Fund, the Earl Haig's Fund and direct government contributions. In addition to financial aid, assistance is given by the provision of tools, bicycles, licences, fishing boats, tuition, apprenticeship fees and free medical attention. The Committee has started, and continues to subsidise, four schemes—an Ex-Servicemen's Home in Port Louis, a fishermen's village in the Black River district, a training farm some miles up-country and a rehabilitation centre attached to the School for the Blind in Port Louis.

The Committee met on 23 occasions in 1948 and examined 2,107 applications for assistance. Of these, 1,393 were approved and 714 rejected.

Chapter III : Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The following tables give a comparison under main Heads of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the years ended the 30th June, 1939, 1947 and 1948.

REVENUE

Main Head	Year ended 30th June		
	1939 Rs.	1947 Rs.	1948 Rs.
1. Customs	5,902,101	9,279,284	10,221,017
2. Port, Harbour and Light dues... ..	549,500	617,271	722,600
3. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	6,510,242	19,160,370	18,949,030
4. Fees of Court or Office and payments for specific services	815,782	2,267,050	2,390,256
5. Reimbursements	1,446,283	3,332,493	1,335,840
6. Rents.	229,220	272,455	410,275
7. Interest.	486,474	910,914	738,344
8. Miscellaneous Receipts	328,054	1,162,082	927,293
9. Posts, Telegraphs and Wireless	370,610	758,546	1,290,562
10. Colonial Development Fund	15,858	5,253	—
11. Railways	371,933	1,036	73,630
12. Land Sales	329	—	—
13. Special Revenue	788,462	1,949,627	2,543,003
14. Assistance from Imperial Funds	—	10,796,984	254,791
TOTAL	17,850,838	50,511,566	39,856,646

The only items which call for comment when comparing the Revenue for 1946-47 and 1947-48 are items 1, 2, 5, 9, 13 and 14. The excess in the first two items is largely due to the steady increase in the import and shipping trade. The decrease in item 5 is due to the refund by the Sugar Industry of the balance of the Sinking Fund Sugar Industry Loan No. 3. The increase in item 9 is due to larger postal traffic and sales of centenary stamps, and the excess revenue in item 13 is mainly accounted for by refunds made in anticipation by borrowers of Hurricane Loans and by the repayments of part of the advances made to the Railway Department in previous years. The last item represents the balance on

the free grant and interest-free loan by the Imperial Government for the replanting with sugarcane of land compulsorily put under food crops during the war as an emergency measure.

EXPENDITURE

Year ended 30th June

Main Head	Year ended 30th June		
	1939 Rs.	1947 Rs.	1948 Rs.
1. Public Debt	2,292,014	3,768,442	1,933,288
2. Pensions and Gratiaities ...	1,695,428	2,299,827	2,115,358
3. Governor	82,659	87,606	108,193
4. Accountant General... ..	197,112	260,333	209,129
5. Agriculture	542,286	454,572	445,435
6. Audit	79,185	89,456	98,155
7. Secretariat, Central Ad- ministration	88,893	294,064	328,933
8. Civil Aviation... ..	—	—	266,249
9. Customs, Harbour, Port and Marine	613,206	872,497	1,163,208
10. Development and Welfare	—	1,250,000	1,250,000
11. District Administration ...	—	18,552	44,421
12. Ecclesiastical... ..	211,914	199,107	198,653
13. Education	1,441,412	1,971,162	2,159,688
14. Electricity and Telephones	178,248	1,092,484	1,392,591
15. Fire Services... ..	—	—	153,552
16. Forests	203,331	641,638	718,621
17. Granary	79,421	73,270	106,700
18. Health	1,477,202	2,611,795	3,151,432
19. Judicial	402,390	468,395	472,389
20. Labour... ..	770,307	1,212,585	219,810
21. Legal	99,564	83,009	93,873
22. Legislature	12,889	17,746	177,386
23. Mauritius Institute and Public Museum	17,115	28,472	48,876
24. Military	935,903	1,148,842	1,050,812
Municipal	398,317	—	—
25. Miscellaneous	1,107,217	911,294	1,169,704
26. Observatory	41,543	40,295	57,558
27. Police	970,903	1,439,271	1,629,593
28. Poll Tax	—	350,986	260,625
29. Posts and Telegraphs ...	322,521	45,404	408,899
30. Printing Office	107,772	214,638	330,751
31. Prisons and Industrial School	178,741	413,652	457,592
32. Public Assistance	—	—	1,010,372
33. Public Works and Surveys ...	340,007	611,202	732,816
34. Public Works and Surveys- Annually Recurrent ...	1,039,379	1,862,153	2,005,313
35. Public Works and Surveys- Extraordinary	228,204	420,989	532,751
36. Railways	765,444	—	1,338,139
37. Registrar General	113,897	121,118	142,555
38. Special expenditure	6,788,462	13,489,114	838,247
39. Statistical Bureau	—	30,995	35,495
40. Subventions	—	463,070	1,023,333
41. Emergency Services	—	9,911,283	16,672,000
Harbour	143,755	313,506	—
Industrial School * ...	34,298	—	—
42. Development and Welfare ...	—	2,500,000	2,500,000
TOTAL	24,000,939	52,513,054	49,147,495

*Included under Prison from 1947.

In comparing 1946-47 with 1947-48, the following items call for comment:

- Item 1. See Revenue item 5.
- Item 8. Provision for the running and maintenance of the Aerodrome at Plaisance which has been handed over to the Civil Government and now forms a permanent feature of the Colony's Estimates.
- Item 9. The increase is due to the expenditure formerly shewn under item HARBOUR.
- Item 14. The excess is due to the extension and improvement of the telephone system.
- Item 15. This expenditure was included under Emergency Services in 1946-47.
- Item 18. The increase is mainly due to the provision of additional staff in order to improve the conditions of service of nurses, dressers and hospital servants.
- Item 20. The decrease follows the decision to separate and organise the Poor Law Branch of the Department. The expenditure of this department is now shown under Item 32, PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.
- Item 22. The increase represents the expenses of the General Elections held under the New Constitution.
- Item 36. It has been considered advisable to provide for the Railway deficit under a separate head as in the past, with a consequential decrease in Item 38.
- Item 40. The excess is due to increased contributions to Village Councils, Township Boards and the Municipality of Port Louis, and to a contribution of Rs. 100,000 to the Ex-Service Men's Welfare Fund.
- Item 41. The excess on this item is mainly accounted for by an increase in the subsidization of commodities from Rs. 4,534,165 in 1946-47 to Rs. 7,693,453 in 1947-48, and by the higher rates of cost of living bonus now payable.

PUBLIC DEBT

The Public Debt of the Colony on the 30th June, 1948, was Rs. 43,954,463. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of Rs. 19,065,379. The comparable figures on the 30th June, 1947, were Rs. 44,261,611 and Rs. 18,633,012.

Local loan issues accounted for Rs. 19,445,493 of the Public Debt, as detailed below:

	Rs.
Mauritius Loan, 1922	5,000,000
Sugar Industry Loan (No. 3), 1929	3,400,000
Agricultural Bank Loan (No. 1), 1937	1,825,500
Agricultural Bank Loan (No. 2), 1937	1,600,000
Municipal Electric Lighting Loan, 1934	48,000
Mauritius War Loan, 1941	4,000,000
War Savings Certificates	414,493
Mauritius Loan, 1961	3,157,500
TOTAL ...	19,445,493

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

(Omitting Special Funds deposited in the Public Treasury):

<i>Liabilities</i>		<i>Assets</i>	
	Rs.		Rs.
Other Governments ...	242,774	Advances ...	20,739,174
Deposits ...	3,532,268	Cash Balance	
Joint Colonial Fund ...	9,480,000	etc. ...	6,955,338
Loan Fund unexpended	9,493	Investments	15,461,994
Mtius. Development and			22,417,332
Welfare Fund ...	8,993,463	Deduct :	
Reserve Fund ...	12,000,000	Balances	
General Revenue		of Special	
Balance ...	5,408,427	Funds in	
		hands of	
		Treasurer...	3,490,081
			18,927,251
TOTAL ...	39,666,425	TOTAL ...	39,666,425

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION AND THEIR YIELD

	1946-47	1947-48
	Rs.	Rs.
Customs—Import Duties	8,674,696	9,655,577
Customs—Export Duties	604,587	565,444
Excise duty on rum	4,711,604	3,052,591
Tobacco Excise	3,256,683	3,404,035
Licence duties	2,351,254	2,948,421
Poll Tax	2,036,512	3,167,613
Companies Tax	2,025,666	3,068,118
Excess Profits Tax	1,764,589	177,484

CUSTOMS TARIFF

The schedule to the Customs Tariff Ordinance comprises three main sections: (i) Import Duties, (ii) Exemptions and (iii) Export Duties. Import Duty is levied under 90 main items, and is calculated on an *ad valorem* or specific basis according to the nature of the article. Provision is made in a number of cases for the imposition of a preferential tariff on goods of Empire manufacture, but the admission of goods to preference is dependent on the production of certain supporting evidence as to Empire origin or content. In the absence of this information, the general tariff rate is charged. Item 40 imposes a general *ad valorem* duty of 12.5% on all goods not elsewhere specified or not specifically exempted.

The schedule of Exemptions contains 44 items, and covers the majority of articles normally granted free importation into Empire countries.

Export duties are levied on sugar, colonial spirits and molasses, and in addition there are small duties imposed on goods exported from bond, goods in transit, and goods reshipped after being landed from distressed vessels.

EXCISE DUTIES

Excise duties are levied on colonial spirits (rum), country liquor (local wine), tobacco, matches, denatured spirit (power and domestic), vinegar, tinctures, drugs and perfumed spirit. The revenue from the production of rum for local consumption has fallen considerably as a result of the Government policy of fixing the maximum quantity available for home consumption at 1,000,000 litres per annum, and there has been, as a result, a considerable increase in the duty collected on local wines production, of which has, so far, not been restricted.

STAMP DUTIES

Stamp duties are of three kinds:

Schedule A to the Stamps (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1926, specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a duty in proportion to the size of the paper used. The tariff ranges from R. 0.25 to Rs. 1.50.

Schedule B specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a fixed stamp duty. The amounts vary from R. 0.05 to Rs. 15.

Schedule C specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to an *ad valorem* duty. These include bills of exchange, promissory notes, policies of insurance and debentures. The duties are mainly on a sliding scale.

The stamp duties collected during the financial year 1947-48 amounted to Rs. 370,941.77 in respect of impressed paper. The duties levied by means of adhesive stamps are included in Postal Revenue, Head 9.

GRADUATED POLL TAX

The graduated poll tax levied in Mauritius is really an income tax and is not a poll tax in the sense in which the term is used for certain African Colonies.

The rate of tax applicable to companies was maintained during 1948 at 35% of the net profit. On individuals the following schedule shows the tax applicable to various incomes:

INCOMES

<i>In excess of Rs.</i>	<i>But not exceeding Rs.</i>	<i>Tax payable Rs.</i>
4,000	5,000	60
5,000	6,000	90
6,000	7,000	120
7,000	8,000	160
8,000	9,000	220
9,000	10,000	280
10,000	11,000	340
11,000	12,000	410
12,000	13,000	490
13,000	14,000	580
14,000	15,000	680
15,000	16,000	800
16,000	17,000	940
17,000	18,000	1,100
18,000	19,000	1,270
19,000	20,000	1,450
20,000	22,500	1,800
22,500	25,000	2,300
25,000	27,500	2,900
27,500	30,000	3,600
30,000	32,500	4,500
32,500	35,000	5,600
35,000	37,500	6,800
37,500	40,000	8,000
40,000	42,500	9,200
42,500	45,000	10,400
45,000	47,500	11,650
47,500	50,000	12,900

For incomes exceeding Rs. 50,000 but not exceeding Rs. 100,000, the tax payable is Rs. 12,900 plus 50% of the amount by which the income exceeds Rs. 50,000.

For incomes exceeding Rs. 100,000, the tax payable is Rs. 37,900 plus 60% of the amount by which the income exceeds Rs. 100,000.

No major legislation affecting graduated poll tax became law during the year under review.

ESTATE DUTY

Although estate duty is not payable in Mauritius, death duty is payable at a rate dependent upon both the relationship to the deceased and the aggregate value of all property passing at death (Ordinances 47 of 1914 and 21 of 1930).

It is apparent that this combines the principles of legacy, succession and estate duties, the two first duties being leviable according to the degree of relationship without aggregation of the whole estate, and the latter on the aggregate estate irrespective of relationship.

The duty collected during the year 1948 amounted to Rs. 260,526.63.

Chapter IV : Currency and Banking

CURRENCY

Notes and silver coin in circulation at the end of the last three financial years were as follows :

			30th June 1946 Rs.	30th June 1947 Rs.	30th June 1948 Rs.
Notes	...	...	26,121,855	26,936,625	28,703,625
Coin	...	...	1,705,210	1,890,210	1,723,210
TOTAL	...	...	<u>27,827,065</u>	<u>28,826,835</u>	<u>30,426,835</u>

The amount of the Note Security Fund, calculated at the mean market price of the investments on the 30th June, 1948, stood at Rs. 31,280,081, i.e., 108.97% of the value of the notes in circulation.

The Coin Security Fund amounted to Rs. 301,183 at the 30th June, 1948. This, added to the bullion value of the issued and unissued coins amounting to Rs. 2,671,147, gives a total of Rs. 2,972,330 against a face value of the Mauritius silver coins minted of Rs. 3,550,000.

BANKING

Three trading banks, one local and the other two overseas, operate in Mauritius. These are :

- (a) The Mauritius Commercial Bank ;
- (b) The Mercantile Bank of India ; and
- (c) Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

Savings bank facilities are provided for by the Government Savings Bank and by Barclays. Loans to planters are handled by the Government-sponsored Mauritius Agricultural Bank. The present trading bank facilities are adequate for the needs of the island but, apart from the Agricultural Bank and the Co-operative Credit movement, Mauritius is not well served by other financial institutions, more particularly those specialising in long term loans to individuals for such purposes as housing. Loans against mortgages are, of course, obtainable from private sources.

The Mauritius Commercial Bank was established in 1838. Its paid-up capital was increased in 1948 from Rs. 2,000,000 to Rs. 3,000,000, the latter sum being made up of 15,000 shares of Rs. 200 each. The total amount of deposits on the 31st December, 1948 was Rs. 28,639,255.16. The Mercantile Bank of India Ltd. took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius Ltd. on the 31st May, 1916. The total paid up capital is £1,050,000. Deposits made locally on the 31st December, 1948, amounted to Rs. 8,383,436.

Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) has a paid-up capital of £7,121,500 as at 30th September, 1948.

The total deposits at the local branch of the Bank on 31st December, 1948, amounted to Rs. 13,973,066. This bank, which is affiliated with Barclays Bank Ltd., was founded in 1925, and represents the amalgamations of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank Ltd. the Colonial Bank and the National Bank of South Africa, Ltd. A branch of the last named bank was established in Mauritius in December 1919. In February 1926, its business was taken over by Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) following the amalgamation already mentioned. The bank acts as agents for Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Ltd.

Offices of the Government Savings Bank are established in the nine districts of the Island with a head office in Port Louis.

The total number of depositors at the 30th June, 1948, was 63,018 compared with 58,582 in the preceding year, and the balance to the credit of depositors at 30th June, 1948, amounted to Rs. 16,761,368 against which investments are held to the value of Rs. 16,116,048. Interest is paid at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ per annum.

THE MAURITIUS AGRICULTURAL BANK

The Mauritius Agricultural Bank was established under Ordinance No. 1 of 1936. This Ordinance has since been replaced by Ordinance No. 11 of 1944 which has itself been amended on a number of occasions. Its capital (Rs. 10,000,000) was provided by Government which raised loans at $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ per annum for this purpose.

Of the Rs. 3,600,000 raised locally Rs. 220,000 as drawn bonds has now been refunded. The Bank is self-supporting and meets sinking fund charges on the loans raised to finance it. The amount of such contributions to 31st December, 1948, was Rs. 670,720.

Its Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1948, may be condensed thus:

<i>Liabilities</i>			<i>Assets</i>		
		<i>Rs</i>			<i>Rs.</i>
Treasury ...	...	10,181,586	Loans ...	...	10,768,255
Sinking Fund ...	...	670,720	Cash ...	...	81,262
Internal Accounts ...	...	93,341	Investments ...	...	17,952
Reserve and P. and L. a/c		618,043	Other Assets ...	...	25,401
			S. F. Contribution ...		670,720
TOTAL ...		11,563,590	TOTAL ...		11,563,590

Since 1937, when it started operations, the Bank has paid out Rs. 16,245,885 in loans.

Ordinance No. 1 of 1936 provided for a minimum loan of Rs. 5,000. In 1940 this was abolished and the bank was authorized to make loans of any amount. Under Ordinance No. 40 of 1940 it was authorized to issue bills to be purchased by the Accountant General up to Rs. 1,000,000 with the proviso that this fresh capital would be used exclusively to make loans of less than Rs. 5,000 to small planters, i.e., planters who supply less than 1,000 tons of cane yearly to a factory.

The Bank's executive rests with a Board of Directors appointed annually, the Chairman by the Secretary of State and the other directors by the Governor of the Colony. The Chairman has a casting vote.

The management of the loans granted under the Hurricane Loan Ordinance of 1945 was entrusted to the Bank. On the 31st December, 1948, loans under this Ordinance amounted to Rs. 17,692,206 of which Rs. 14,477,958 was for replanting, Rs. 2,646,400 for repairs to industrial buildings and Rs. 567,848 for repairs to houses.

The Mauritius Economic Commission (1948) has recommended that the Bank's capital be increased and the scope of its activities enlarged. This recommendation is now under consideration.

Chapter V : Commerce

The Colony is by now conscious of the danger of having "all its eggs in the one basket." Sugar constitutes 96-97% of the value of the total exports, so that any threat to the sugar crop is at present a threat to the whole economy of the island. But the problem of finding other "baskets" is proving none too easy to solve. For instance, good quality tea could be cultivated for export, but any major extension of the tea industry will be at the expense of either the Crown Forests—thereby affecting the supply of timber and the water catchment area—or of existing agricultural pursuits. The search for a more balanced economy goes on.

The main imports into Mauritius are foodstuffs, cotton goods, fertilizers, motor spirit, coal, machinery and motor vehicles, hardware and electrical goods and requisites for the sugar industry. Rice, the staple food of the population, is still difficult to obtain. Its place as a staple is largely being taken by flour imported from Australia. There are considerable imports of other foodstuffs from the United Kingdom, South Africa and India. Beef on the hoof is normally imported from Madagascar, but the supply has been erratic recently. Some shipments of frozen meat from Australia and South Africa have helped to ease a difficult meat situation.

The United Kingdom remains the principal source of supply for manufactured goods. Large quantities of cotton goods and of gunny bags for the sugar crop are received from India. About one-fourth of the Colony's requirements of bags are produced locally from aloe fibre by the Government Sack Factory at Quatre Bornes. Other secondary industries are the production of tea, local wine, tobacco and matches. High grade alcohol is a valuable by-product of the sugar industry.

A wide choice of vegetables, both European and tropical according to the season, is available locally and also some semi-tropical fruits such as bananas, pineapples, mangoes, lechis and papayas. Oranges, apples and grapes are imported from South Africa. Potatoes come from Kenya and Madagascar. Before the war the better quality wines were imported from France, but because of currency restrictions and shipping shortages South Africa has now to a great extent captured this trade.

Imports in 1948 reached a total value of Rs. 136,265,540 compared to Rs. 113,833,412 for the preceding year. The principal items were 30,647 metric tons of rice from Burma, Brazil and Egypt with a C.I.F. value of Rs. 19,604,664 ; 25,636 tons of flour and other grain (C.I.F. value Rs. 14,399,343) ; 21,872 tons of manures and fertilizers for the sugar crop from the U.K., Chile

and France (C.I.F. value Rs. 5,788,934) ; 65,316 tons of coal, coke and manufactured fuel from South Africa and the U.K., (C.I.F. value Rs. 3,293,857) and cotton goods to the value of Rs. 9,252,502.

Exports, including re-exports, totalled Rs. 144,345,359 in 1948 compared to Rs. 101,012,108 in 1947. Of this total of slightly over 144 million rupees the export of sugar accounted for no less than Rs. 137,087,080. Most of the crop went to the U.K., the Far East and the Middle East. Rum exports to the U.K. reached a volume of 5,232,929 litres with a F.O.B. value of Rs. 3,663,050. Aloe fibre exported to Belgium and the U.K. in 1948 was valued at Rs. 98,277 F.O.B compared to Rs. 50,717 in 1947.

Chapter VI : Production

AGRICULTURE

Climatically the year 1948 was in no way remarkable. The spell of sub-normal rainfall experienced during the last quarter of 1947 continued throughout January, February and March. In April, however, rainfall was above normal and the cane continued to grow well even though the months of May and June were comparatively dry. The fall was slightly above normal for July, deficient in August and again above normal in September.

Temperatures were above normal in January and March, below normal in February and May and generally normal or above normal for the remainder of the growth period. In July, August and September there were wide ranges between maxima and minima, conditions very favourable to cane maturation.

Sugar

There was nothing in this to lead one to expect a record sugar crop-nevertheless a record crop was reaped. Both the yields of cane and the percentage sucrose extraction proved unexpectedly high in spite of the September rainfall, and the final compilation of the returns showed the crop to be one of 392,383 metric tons. The previous record was established in 1947 with a crop of 348,531 metric tons. Even allowing for the absence of cyclones and other obvious factors, it is difficult to find a satisfactory explanation for this coincidence of two record crops. Their occurrence is probably not unconnected with the displacement of practically every other cane variety by the cane known as M.134/32. This remarkable cane, the reactions of which to climatic conditions are as yet insufficiently known, was bred at the Mauritius Sugar Cane Research Station and released in 1937. By 1940 it occupied only 2% of the area in cane: this had increased to 37% in 1944, 80% in 1947 and over 90% in 1948.

MAP OF MAURITIUS

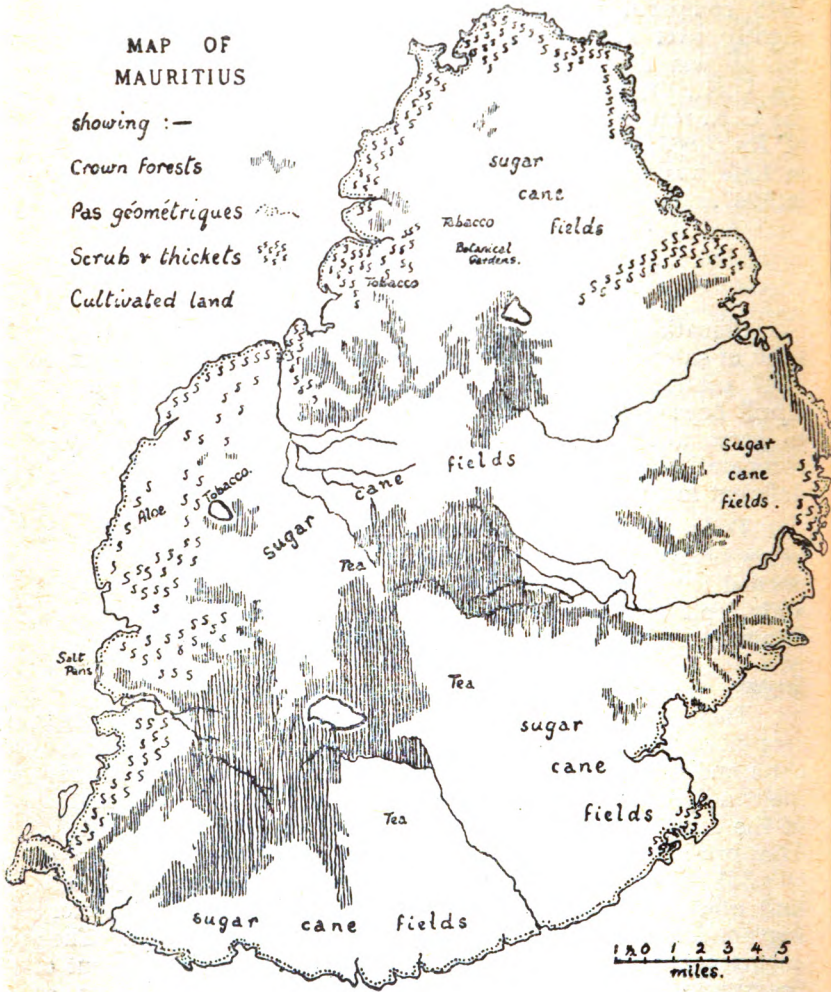
showing :—

Crown forests

Pas géométriques

Scrub & thickets

Cultivated land



The area under sugarcane at the beginning of the year was about 156,000 acres of which approximately 143,000 acres were harvested.

The total sugar manufactured during the year amounted to 392,000 metric tons, and the exported crop was purchased by the U.K. Ministry of Food.

Alcohol

Alcohol continued to be manufactured from molasses both for export and for local consumption. The total quantity of alcohol produced was 9,283,623 litres, of which 5,257,366 litres was for export. Measures were introduced for the testing and grading of alcohol for export.

Tobacco

The small tobacco industry, which has never yet produced a leaf suitable for export but which provides the bulk of local requirements, continued on the same basis as in previous years under the control of the Tobacco Board. Permits were issued for the production of 400 metric tons in 1948-49, but weather conditions were generally unfavourable and the crop suffered both in quality and quantity.

Aloe Fibre

Fibre from the so-called Mauritius hemp (*Furcroea gigantea*) was produced by 25 estates during the year. A total of 852.304 tons of fibre was delivered to the Government Sack Factory and 101.224 tons were exported. As the result of an agreement permitting the temporary employment of women at night, the factory was enabled to work 15 hours a day during 260 days and to produce for the sugar industry 854,067 badly needed bags, each of 80 kgs. capacity.

In addition, the factory produced 93,093 yards of filterpress cloth for use in the sugar factories, and a quantity of yarn for the manufacture of ropes.

In 1947 Mr. Lock, Senior Agricultural Officer, Tanganyika Territory, and Mr. Lees of Messrs. Robey & Co., of Lincoln, England visited the Colony to advise on the fibre industry in both its agricultural and processing aspects. The reports of Messrs. Lock and Lees, which were received early in the year, indicate that there is considerable scope for development of fibre as a local industry. Efforts are being made to overcome one of the main drawbacks of *Furcroea*, the difficulty and the expense of decorticating, by obtaining a design prototype for an efficient automatic decorticator. Investment of very considerable capital is also

required for the establishment of plantations, the rehabilitation of factories and the purchase of additional spinning and weaving machinery. Agreement is also needed, but has not yet been reached, between the sugar and fibre interests, in regard to the future of the industry.

Tea

There has been no major developments in tea production. Progress has been temporarily held up pending certain decisions on major policy, particularly with regard to Captain de Mowbray's recommendations concerning the future of the less efficient factories and the establishment of another large modern factory.

A Tea Experimental Station is now being opened up. Consignments of seed from Malaya were imported during the year and certain areas which had been planted in the past and subsequently abandoned are being rehabilitated to provide seed-bearers.

Local production of tea amounted to 560,568 lbs. in 1948 compared with 504,559 lbs. in the previous year.

Food (Miscellaneous)

The food production campaign which was started in 1947 by the newly appointed Food Production Board has resulted in a considerable increase in local supplies. Under the stimulus of bonus payments for planting and of guaranteed prices for maize and groundnuts, the following acreages were planted under subsidised foodcrops and harvested in 1948 prior to 30th June:

Maize	...	9,826	acres
Rootcrops	...	2,601	..
Groundnuts	...	2,183	..

This total of 14,610 acres compared with 4,199 acres planted under the same crops last year.

The planting of maize and rootcrops considerably exceeded the targets, but the anticipated acreage under groundnuts (i.e., 15,000 acres) was not reached owing to the incidence of bacterial wilt disease in the Virginia bunch variety groundnut seed introduced in bulk from Uganda. Seed of the local "c'abri" variety, which has a high degree of resistance to this disease, is now being bulked up.

To obtain an estimate of the total area under food crops it is necessary to add 5,948 acres of subsidised foodcrops registered in 1948 and due for harvest after 30th June, 2,662 acres of non-subsidised foodcrops (rice and potatoes), and about 5,000 acres in vegetables. The total area under all foodcrops, including vegetables was, therefore, probably in the region of 28,000 acres.

The scheme has proved attractive to small planters and peasant folk, but not to estate owners. It is estimated that of the 14,610 acres registered and due for harvest before 30th June, only 2,800 acres is accounted for by plantings on larger estates (i.e., sugar plantations of 200 acres and above). Much of the increase is accounted for by the opening up to hitherto unused Crown Land and other lands, held by the cultivators on very short lease. The standards of cultivation and care of the land leave much to be desired, for the cultivator is naturally concerned to to extract as much as possible during the tenure of his lease. In addition, he often lacks resources and skill. Development of food production on sound and permanent lines awaits the operation of the Land Settlement Scheme which is still in abeyance pending a decision about the acquisition of land.

Entomology

No new pests of agricultural crops were recorded during the year, but a few cases of a type of curl disease—presumably of virus origin, were observed for the first time. Efforts to control *Herbe Condé*, (*Cordia macrostachya*), the introduced bush which has taken possession of much of the pasture land of the island, by the introduction of its insects enemies was continued.

Breeding and release of the first species to be introduced, *Physonota alutacea*, was completed, but unfortunately this species has proved unable to hold its own against Mauritian insects which prevent its breeding. A second species, *Schematiza Cordiae*, was released during the year after thorough feeding tests, and gives more promise of success. Preparations for the release of a third insect (*Eurytoma* sp.) are nearing completion.

Animal Husbandry

The most urgent problem in this field is that of milk supplies. Proposals for establishing pasteurising plant and improving marketing have so far not found practical application owing to the difficulties of reconciling the different interests involved. Recent discussions have, however, resulted in detailed proposals for a Co-operative Milk Union to organise the collection, processing and distribution of milk, and it is hoped that this scheme will prove practicable.

A very considerable increase in the number of milk cattle, improvement of quality, practical education of the Indian cow-keeper, and a solution of the problems of supply of fodder and other foodstuffs will also be necessary before the dairy industry can be placed on a satisfactory basis.

Friesland bulls introduced by Government and stationed at stud throughout the island are contributing materially, if slowly, to the improvement of dairy stock ; but the extent to which the small cow-keeper avails himself of this service is still disappointing. The other problems have not as yet received the attention they need, owing to a lack of the necessary staff, but the appointment of an Animal Husbandry Officer, who arrived in the Colony at the end of the year, should enable more rapid progress to be made.

Land Tenure

Most of the agricultural land of the Colony is the absolute property of the occupiers who are thus not affected by any land tenure system unless they choose to let their land. The parcelling out of large estates together with the operation of local laws on inheritance has resulted in the distribution of landed property among the population to within extremely small limits. At least half the small planters cultivate areas of less than one arpent and one-third areas of between one and five arpents. It is chiefly to the laws of inheritance that this subdivision of lands must be ascribed.

A bill was introduced in October 1947, into the former Council of Government to suppress completely the system of " community of goods " and substitute a complete separation of property held by spouses. This bill was referred for further investigation to the Law Committee which was unable to report back to Council before the latter was dissolved. It was re-introduced in the new Legislative Council in September 1948, but had not passed its second reading by the end of the year. If this bill becomes law it will remove an important cause of the splitting up of immovable property in the Island.

A constant source of friction is to be found in the present system of leasing lands by verbal agreement. The system normally works well provided there is good faith between landlord and tenant. But when an estate changes hands the new owner may not always be willing to accept the verbal contracts entered into by his predecessor. The Food Production Board has been conscious of this danger and has for some time past been studying the replacement of verbal agreements by a simple and inexpensive form of written contract valid in law and suited to the needs of a largely illiterate small—planting community.

LAND SETTLEMENT

After a thorough investigation into the possibilities of Land Settlement in Mauritius, the Land Settlement Officer submitted his report to the Governor early in 1948.

The report envisages a ten-year plan for Land Settlement and provides for several types of schemes including dairying and mixed holdings. The implementation of the whole scheme would necessitate the taking over of 4,600 acres of land (including Crown Lands) ranging from sea level to the uplands of the central plateau and an expenditure of Rs. 8,900,000 in the purchase of land, erection of buildings, provision of water supplies, roads, loans for tenants, etc.

Special advantages of the scheme would be security of tenure (leasehold), improved housing and water supplies, a countering of the drift to the town, a 3% return on capital expenditure, increased food supplies to the colony and increased and improved stock-breeding and feeding.

The Mauritius Economic Commission which visited Mauritius in 1947-48 reviewed this report and recommended the immediate implementation of a first year programme of land settlement. Similar approval was accorded to the first year scheme by the newly constituted Development Authority and by the Natural Resources Board. The new Legislative Council is now considering the scheme and one of the questions under review is whether high quality sugarcane lands should be made available for such special purposes as a Co-operative Settlement and Demonstration Farm.

The Land Settlement Officer has established a Stock Breeding Station at Flat Island about eight miles to the North-East of Mauritius. Pedigreed Blackhead Persian rams and ewes have been imported from South Africa to build up a pure bred flock, and a number of Mauritius cross ewes have been bought to form a commercial flock. It is also intended to breed donkeys and goats, geese and other poultry on the island. The Stock Breeding Farm, in addition to providing good breeding animals, is expected to supplement the Colony's meat ration.

FISHERIES

A Fisheries branch of the Supplies Control Department was set up in 1943 to control the fishing of the lagoons and open sea immediately off the coast of Mauritius and the distribution of the catch among the local markets. In 1947 this branch was placed under the control of the Director of Agriculture and a specialist Fisheries Officer was appointed.

Fishing in local waters is unlikely to yield much more than the present annual catch of about 2,000 tons. Future expansion will depend partly on deep-sea fishing within 30 miles of the coast, but much more so on the exploitation of the fishing banks in the Mauritius-Seychelles area of the Indian Ocean. A fishing company was recently formed for this purpose, and has purchased in the

U.K., two vessels to be fitted with refrigerating chambers. One of these vessels is expected to start operations in April 1949. This venture, which Government has backed by a loan of Rs. 500,000, is being watched with great interest not only by Mauritius but also by the Governments of those territories bordering this part of the Indian Ocean. An extension of cold-storage facilities in Port Louis is being undertaken to handle the increased supply of fish.

A Fisheries Consolidation Ordinance (No. 7 of 1948) came into force in July. Among other things the Ordinance provides for the setting-up of an Advisory Board of 7-10 members annually appointed by the Governor. One of the first tasks undertaken by the new Board was the distribution of large net permits for 1949.

The Fisheries Officer continued in 1948 his systematic study of the various species of fish in these waters. No exhaustive study of this nature has yet been published, and the work now on hand should have considerable scientific as well as practical importance.

Drs. Wheeler and Ommanney continued their research work on the fishing grounds surrounding Mauritius and the Seychelles, concentrating mainly on the latter Colony during 1948.

FORESTRY

During periods of emergency, when imports of timber practically ceased, exploitation of our relatively small forest resources has been too rapid. Such has been the case during the recent war years and unless the forest resources are to be permanently denuded a long period of conservation and replanting must take precedence over utilization.

Timber production from Crown (Forest) and other Crown Lands is organised by the Forest Department, from the Pas Géométriques, (a strip of land all round the coast extending to a depth of 250 feet inland from the coast) by lessees, and from other privately owned forested lands by landowners. Forest produce obtained from each of these sources is consumed locally.

All timber utilization work in Crown Lands is carried out by labourers employed on piece work rates under the direct control of the Forest Department. Felling has until very recently been done by axe alone. This results in considerable waste. The extraction of both timber and fuel from stump to roadside is undertaken by labourers. Extraction of timber by draft animals or by mechanical means has not been attempted and, of necessity, only a very low standard of logging and utilization in general is achieved. The maximum size of log which can be extracted is limited to that which can be conveniently handled by human

beings, and all large-girth logs must be squared by axe at the stump. Attempts are being made to popularise the conversion of large timber on sawpits erected in the forests, but suitable pit-saws are in very short supply and much prejudice against the proposal is being encountered, in spite of the offer of appreciably higher conversion rates. All round or hewn timber extracted from Crown Forests is converted at five sawmills, two of very small capacity owned and operated by the Forest Department in the forests and three privately owned.

All silvicultural work in Crown Forests—the raising and tending of plantations, cleanings and thinnings—is done by daily paid labour under the direct supervision of members of the Department. Comparatively high wages affect the costs of raising successful plantations, and formation costs per acre of plantations vary between Rs. 120 and Rs. 150 per acre.

As a general rule, sawyers and woodcutters are Creoles while plantation labourers are Indo-Mauritians. An increasing number of the latter are, however, joining the ranks of the sawyers and woodcutters.

Owing to the absence of a satisfactory labour supply in close proximity to Crown forests, situated generally in the elevated high rainfall regions of the island, shortages of labour for direct employment by the Forest Department are frequently experienced. This is met by encouraging fuel and other contractors to engage and transport their own labour to the forests. This shortage of labour applies more directly to fuel cutting operations.

Timber Utilization

During the year under review, timber production from Crown Forests was 372,900 cubic feet. Imports of timber were 415,700 cubic feet, and it is estimated that some 210,000 cubic feet of timber were obtained from privately owned and other than Crown Forest lands. The value of the locally produced timber was Rs. 693,000 and of the imported timber Rs. 1,615,800. Crown forests also produced 20,832 cords of fuel, equivalent to a volume of 1,666,560 stacked cubic feet.

Forest Policy

As a result of a visit to the Colony in February 1948, by the Forestry Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies a report, containing suggestions for a detailed Forest Policy for the Colony and embodying the broad outlines of proposals for the future management of the forest state, was examined and approved by the Forest Board and has now been submitted for the approval of Government.

Cyclones

The year 1948 was marked by the absence of cyclones. Unfortunately the after-effects of the severe cyclones of 1945 continue to be apparent and have, in many cases, necessitated the harvesting of immature crops. It has been estimated that cyclone relief in the shape of housebuilding materials—posts, poles, rafters, etc., provided by the Forest Department from immature tree crops,—involved the clear felling of some 600 acres of plantations of ten to fifteen years of age. This is equivalent to two years' plantings at the current scale of new plantations being raised.

Protection

National Reserves to the extent of some 5,000 acres of indigenous high forest have been set aside for permanent preservation as such. These exist in inaccessible or comparatively inaccessible sites and mainly for this reason have survived the depredation of the once extensive forest cover of this Island.

Eucalyptus Snout beetle (*Gonipterous spp.*). The egg parasite *Anaphordea nitens* gir : has continued to increase in numbers and should in time assume virtual control over the spread of *Gonipterous*. There is little doubt that the incidence and the extent of the damage done by the snout beetle has been considerably lessened.

In the course of the year an officer of the Entomological branch of the Agricultural Department was appointed as Timber Investigation officer and has taken up the study of insects and other agencies responsible for damage to timber. His preliminary work has revealed the presence in the island, in fair numbers, of *Phoracantha semipunctata* F., a serious pest of Eucalyptus in Australia and South Africa.

Management

In co-operation with the Food Production Board the "taungya system," under which agricultural crops are cultivated with tree crops, was extended, mainly to low levels. At higher elevations the depredations of wild deer cause very severe damage to agricultural crops and suitable facilities for cultivators to live in the forests do not yet exist.

Shade over River Reserves, an integral part of the Colony's Anti-Malaria Scheme, occupied the attention of the Forest Department and some progress has been made in replanting cultivated areas on stream banks with trees,

In the course of the year, the Tea Officer to the Government examined carefully the possibility of extending the cultivation of tea, and his examination of suitable sites included the inspection of Crown (Forest) lands. His preliminary proposals envisage the utilization of some ten thousand acres of the best soil types in Crown forests for the production of tea. The plans for the extension of tea cultivation had not been completed by the end of the year, but the setting aside of a large area of the best soil types in Crown forest lands for the cultivation of tea would undoubtedly affect the whole future management of the forest estate.

Silviculture

A total area of 343 arpents of new plantations were made during the year, including 65 arpents in Rodrigues. With a view to increasing the number of cyclone-resistant species of timber trees in the Colony, attempts are being made to introduce new varieties, but for several years to come only those species which have proved their suitability for cultivation in the island must continue to be planted. Because of the very serious damage invariably sustained by Pine crops during the periodical cyclones the scale upon which this species has hitherto been planted is being reduced, and the cultivation of *Araucaria spp.* extended.

INDUSTRY

Thirty sugar factories handled the record 1948 crop of 392,000 tons. None of these factories is modern, but through efficient maintenance the extraction obtained in all of them compares very favourably with that of modern installations operating elsewhere. In this connection the Economic Commission reported "Generally, the efficiency at which these old plants are operated is remarkable. In spite of the generally old-fashioned crushing plants with cast-iron head stock often patched by armour plating, smooth rollers and none too powerful engines, the extraction obtained averages over 94% whilst the output and recovery obtained by the old boiling house equipment is, on the whole, very good." A good deal of this efficiency is traceable to the replacements and improvements effected by two local ironworks.

In addition to the sugar factories there are five factories producing tea, nine manufacturing wine from imported raisins and local fruits, eleven distilleries, two cigarette factories and two match factories. There are also two ironworks and a small ship building and repair yard.

Stoppages during 1948

The decision taken early in the year to limit the amount spent on the subsidisation of imported foodstuffs led to a substantial rise in the price of certain commodities, especially flour. It was anticipated that the rise in the cost of living would be adjusted by joint negotiations between workers and employers for adjustment of wage rates. In spite of efforts to this end, however, the Executive of the Mauritius Technical and Engineering Workers Union decided to attempt to force Government to restore the former level of food prices by ordering their members to refuse to work overtime in certain engineering workshops where important work was being carried on. The declared aim was to persuade the proprietors to put pressure upon Government to accede to the union's demand. Any yielding to this threat would have involved a substantial increase in the total of subsidies paid from General Revenue. The effort was unsuccessful. After a Conciliation Board had failed to bring about agreement, after the closing down of their works by the two employers, and threats by the Union leaders of a general strike, an interim agreement was ultimately reached increasing the rate of cost-of-living bonus.

A further attempted stoppage of work by strike action was soon afterwards ordered by the same trade union at the factory of The Mount sugar estate in connection with the dismissal of two lorry drivers. The management refused to give way and were successful in engaging other workers, thus carrying on their normal work of overhaul and repair of the machinery in preparation for the crushing season. The action of the trade union—which had arbitrarily called out its members in the middle of negotiations without respecting the formalities required by the Trade Disputes Ordinance—was not regarded favourably by the other trade unions forming part of the Trades Union Council. In neither instance was support given, although collections in aid of distressed strikers were authorised. The situation at The Mount sugar estate continued unchanged until the start of the crushing season when the management agreed to reinstate the semi-skilled workers who had gone on strike. The skilled workers had in the meantime been able to secure employment elsewhere, and were not re-engaged.

The atmosphere created by these two incidents was not at all conducive to industrial peace. A further complication was the refusal of this trade union by way of retaliation to negotiate with the Sugar Producers Association the usual annual agreement concerning the wages and conditions of employment of artisans. There were in consequence many threats and prophecies that no sugar would be harvested in Mauritius during 1948. Strenuous efforts by the Labour Department eventually were successful in

persuading the two parties to submit voluntarily the question of the new agreement to a Court of Arbitration. The ensuing award, coupled with energetic efforts by every officer of the Labour Department to investigate and resolve all complaints at their source, were so successful that when the time came not a single man—day was lost to the sugar industry as the result of industrial disputes during the harvesting of a record crop.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The year under review has been one of remarkable development in the field of co-operation. To maintain the movement on the right lines has created a formidable task for the Department of Co-operation. Indeed, the main need of the movement at present is the provision of a staff adequate not only to organise and educate in fresh facets of co-operation but also to supervise efficiently the ever expanding number of co-operative stores. These organisations require most careful nursing during infancy and adolescence. A furiously developing but insufficiently instructed consumer society movement is apt to end in something more than disappointment. It is hoped to avoid this in Mauritius.

New registrations totalled 92 and may be classified as follows :

- 1 co-operative central bank, limited ;
- 9 co-operative credit societies of unlimited liability ;
- 1 co-operative credit society of limited liability ;
- 2 co-operative marketing societies, limited ;
- 9 thrift and savings co-operative societies, limited ; and
- 70 co-operative stores societies, limited.

Of the 70 co-operative stores registered during the year 46 had commenced operations by the end of December, 1948.

Credit Societies

On the 31st December, 1948, there were 90 societies of this nature in active operation in Mauritius and 21 in Rodriguez, making a grand total of 111 active credit societies. Of these, two societies only are of the limited liability type, the Rodriguez Fishermen Society and the Sainte Cecile Fishermen Society of Bambous Virieux in the district of Grand Port. The remaining 109 are all of unlimited liability. In general, there has been a marked increase in membership and share capital, more active working and the maintenance of a good standard of recovery.

The societies have continued to sell their members' crops of sugarcane and leaf tobacco collectively. Following on the registration of a new credit society whose members are engaged mainly in maize cultivation, this commodity also was sold collectively to the Government Maize Mill, the crop fetching just over Rs. 100,000,

With the establishment of the Co-operative Central Bank the share of Government in the financing of the movement has been materially reduced. No money was advanced by Government during the year, but the societies repaid to the Treasury Rs. 219,325. The aggregate amount of the advances still due to Government on the 31st December, 1948, was Rs. 68,940. This was held by 9 societies in Mauritius and 20 societies in Rodriguez.

The policy heretofore adopted in so far as the financing of the movement by Government is concerned is being revised. With the prospect of organising by the end of the year a co-operative central bank, it was deemed advisable to discontinue direct financial assistance to individual societies whose members are engaged in the cultivation of sugarcane and other secondary crops. To meet the interim requirements of these societies negotiations were entered into with the Mauritius branch of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas). The Bank authorised the societies to overdraw on it to the extent of Rs. 159,000 on the security of their unlimited liability.

The aim of co-operation is to supply goods or services at cost price, (i.e., at the cost of supply) but in the early years of a credit society's life it is usual to make an overcharge of interest for the creation of a reserve fund against the risk of bad debts. The commencing rate of interest in co-operative credit societies, which up till the 30th June, 1947, was 12%, was last year reduced to 10%. The higher rate was justified by the obvious need to build up a reserve against loss, but with the establishment of the Central Bank to finance the whole movement it is considered that such commencing rate should be further reduced. It is felt that even at the most unfavourable periods societies need not observe a margin of more than 3% between their lending and borrowing rates. Consequently, as the Central Bank is charging 5% interest to its member societies, it is felt that a new society should not now, save in quite exceptional circumstances, lend at a higher rate of interest than 8%. Existing societies that lend at yet higher rates will be advised to reduced them to the new level after the close of this co-operative year, i.e., after the 30th April, 1949.

The number of societies made to assume full responsibility for the management of their own affairs, which last year was 33, is now 58, i.e., an increase of 25. After the completion of the audit of societies' accounts in June 1949, some more societies will be left to manage their own affairs (apart, of course, from the annual audit). The Deputy Registrar in the company of the Registrar super-audited the accounts of half a dozen co-operative credit societies during the year.

Thrift Societies

In addition to the evils arising from a widespread state of indebtedness, there is a general absence of thrift and of provision for the future. In order to practise thrift, there must be the means, the opportunity and the will. Ideally, the wage-earner should not ordinarily borrow at all but should gradually accumulate savings to meet emergencies which will inevitably arise. Banks are apt to despise the humble rupee or two which is possibly all that such people can afford to put by. Depositing this humble saving in the Government Savings Bank may entail the loss of a day's wage to the depositor in effecting the necessary transactions. Thus, without the wholesome compulsion of a definite fund system, he finds it difficult to save at all.

The best way of making it easy to save is by the establishment of a thrift and savings co-operative society in each village. It is the best means of cultivating the habit of thrift and of removing the root cause of the wholesale indebtedness of the small wage earner.

Special attention was devoted during the last quarter of 1948 to encouraging the formation of societies of this type. As a result, 9 thrift and savings co-operative societies were registered by the 31st December.

Central Bank

The Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank was registered on the 8th October, 1948. Its inauguration opens a chapter in the annals of co-operation in this Island undreamed of by the earlier co-operators. This "big idea" has got off to a good start. So far, 4 stores and 86 credit societies in Mauritius have been enrolled as members of the Central Bank.

At the close of the year under review its share capital amounted to Rs. 18,500, not enough to meet a loan requirement estimated at Rs. 1,000,000. Recalling the help given by Barclays Bank in the formation of the Central Bank in Cyprus, an approach was made to the Manager of the Mauritius branch of this Bank. He carefully examined the position and internal working of a number of typical credit societies, referred the matter to his principals and was empowered to create a substantial fluctuating overdraft for the Co-operative Central Bank at a rate of 4% subject, of course, to certain normal provisions in the shape of securities. This is a highly satisfactory arrangement,

Consumers' Societies

By the end of December 1947, fourteen stores had been registered and twelve of these had opened their doors. By the end of December 1948, eighty-four stores were registered and the registration of three cancelled. 55 stores were in operation. There were a few others well in prospect, while work had been begun on 18 and another 12 applications received were on the waiting list.

As soon as a store commences operations it is visited weekly by an Inspector of the Department of Co-operation who ensures that the books are being properly kept and that any malpractices are "run to earth." As experience is gained the weekly visits are lengthened to fortnightly, monthly or bi-monthly ones. Eventually complete freedom is attained apart, of course, from the annual audit and surprise visits by the Registrar and his Deputy.

In varying degree all of the co-operative stores in Mauritius operate under one or more of the following difficulties. The number of members not purchasing from their store often rises to a high figure and the underlying cause in the majority of cases is that many of them owe the retailers with whom they had been dealing for years sums of money which they have neither the means nor the courage to repay. They make a number of token purchases from their "co-op" but, in the main, adhere to the gentleman who for years (and more particularly since the advent of the co-operative store) has seen to it that his credit terms have ensnared his client. Another obstacle is the sale of rum—often referred to locally as the "poor man's solace." Mauritius "co-ops" do not, for several reasons, sell this drink, mainly because of the high cost of the necessary licence and the difficulty of obtaining it—only a certain number being available in each district. An effort to obtain free licences for these stores on the grounds that they sold only to their members did not succeed. Incidentally, local "co-ops," in consequence of an official interpretation of the law, do not pay the ordinary shop-keeper's licence of Rs. 60 per quarter. Many members of these societies are in the habit of consuming a tot or two of rum at the end of the day and to get it they have to go to their local store-cum-bar. The proprietor no doubt then takes this opportunity at persuading the co-operator to desert his store and return to him. Many potential consumers refuse to join a "co-op" because it does not sell rum.

Local wine and a small quantity of imported spirits were for some months sold by these stores without the payment of licence but a recent interpretation of the law renders them liable to pay and the cost of the necessary licence is beyond the capacity of most "co-ops."

There is also the hostility of the business world to these consumer societies. It is always there—watching and waiting. The "co-ops" deals in all rationed commodities mostly via the wholesale merchants. Were it not for the support of the Department of Co-operation and the co-operation of the Controller of Supplies their position would indeed be difficult. The solution lies in the formation of a Wholesale Union and this is now receiving the attention of co-operators.

Staples such as rice, flour, oils and sugar are handled by co-operative stores on the ration card system and one of the major successes of the movement has been the appreciation by members of the good quality and correct weight of the rations obtained from their store.

Marketing Societies

A scheme for the co-operative marketing of ginger in the districts of Pamplemousses and Port Louis has been initiated. Inquiries proved that there was scope for a marketing society in each of these districts and that substantial economies could be effected. This was accepted at a public meeting by the ginger growers interested, a large number of whom already had some experience of what could be done by co-operative action. A set of by-laws based on the Cyprus model was produced and the formal registration of the first society of this type, the "Crève Coeur Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited" took place on the 22nd March, 1948. A second, the "Port Louis Ginger Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited" was registered in October 1948. Their operations have proved to be most successful.

The possibility of marketing milk was also investigated this year. Apathy and inertia appear to be making way for a little genuine interest on the part of the producers. Two credit societies are trying to organise "milk sale societies" for their areas of operations. The general lines of such a scheme were accepted by some cow owners and committees were appointed to canvass members and form the societies.

Legislation

During the course of the year G.N. 36 of 1948 changed the co-operative society financial year from July 1st–June 30th to May 1st–April 30th. Another notice, G.N. 263 of 1948, dealt with sugarcane contracts,

Chapter VII : Social Services

EDUCATION

To see any one year's educational progress in proper perspective it is necessary to cast one's mind back to previous years. The obvious point of departure in Mauritius is the arrival of Mr. Ward (now Assistant Adviser on Education to the Secretary of State) and the new legislation introduced in 1940 by which the Director of Education was made responsible for:

- (a) co-ordinating all the Colony's educational activities ;
- (b) providing a supply of trained teachers ;
- (c) securing improved health and physical training ;
- (d) developing agricultural and technical training ;
- (e) making the education of all classes of the community more practical ;
- (f) improving the teaching of English and assisting the spread of the English language in the Colony ; and
- (g) improving the education of girls.

Since then the work of the Department has been devoted to developing the Colony's education on the lines thus outlined, progress in any particular item being dependent on a variety of factors such as the availability of staff, the need for buildings and equipment and the money to buy them. Emphasis tends to move from one to another, each being given the necessary impetus in turn.

Emphasis during 1948 has been on plans for secondary education, on new buildings for primary schools, and on the health of both primary and secondary school children.

Secondary Education

The last few years have seen a large expansion in the size and number of secondary schools and a growing demand for education beyond the primary stage. It has been the old story of supply and demand. Expansion has been unregulated and the appetite for secondary education has grown by what it feeds on. The Government institutions catering for secondary education are the Royal College of Curepipe and its extension, the Royal College School at Port Louis. Together they educate about 500 boys, the top class training candidates for the Cambridge Higher School Certificate. There is at present no Government Secondary School for Girls. All girls; and all other boys who seek secondary education, go to schools run by the religious authorities or by private individuals. There are altogether 34 such schools educating a total of approximately 5,600 pupils. Six of these with 2,000 pupils are "approved" schools financially assisted by Government, while the remaining 28 with some 4,000 pupils receive no grant-in-aid and eke out a precarious existence on the fees of their pupils. It was clearly necessary to put this to rights and the Secretary of

State was asked to invite a suitable expert to visit Mauritius to examine, diagnose and prescribe. Towards the end of 1947 Mr. A. E. Nichols, C.B.E., M.C., Headmaster of Hele's School, Exeter, and President of the Incorporated Association of Headmasters, paid a visit to inspect our secondary schools and make recommendations concerning the Mauritius system of post-primary education.

In general his recommendations are designed to provide a system of secondary education related to the Colony's needs and capacity. They endorse the Ward plans which have been slowly taking shape since 1945 in spite of the lack of the necessary specialist staff, and they underline the need to raise salaries and to appoint a Secondary School Supervisor so as to provide sustained attention to problems of secondary education and supervision of the whole post-primary school system. The Supervisor has been appointed and arrived towards the end of the year.

Meanwhile it has been possible to increase by one-third the subventions to Aided Schools and to provide extraordinary grants for libraries. Gramophone and linguaphone records for English and French language teaching were distributed to ten of the secondary schools. Such measures are of only limited usefulness but it is to be hoped that the new Supervisor, working on Mr. Nichol's suggestions, will be able to put forward a workable scheme whereby more non-Government schools may be recognized and assisted with the aim of increasing the general efficiency of secondary education.

Until last year the much-coveted English Scholarships—annual awards to allow two scholars to take at public expense a course of training at a University or similar institution overseas—were open to pupils of the Royal College only. In December 1947, however, was held the first examination for approved secondary schools for boys, and two scholarships were awarded, one on the Arts and the other on the Science side.

Meanwhile the Loreto Convents have centralised the teaching of girls for the Higher School Certificate Course at Curepipe where are brought together girls from the other convents. The Curepipe convent has also accepted for its Homecrafts Course (essential for qualification for the English Scholarship) a girl from one of the private schools unable to provide such training. The establishment of the Higher School Certificate course at Curepipe which brings together girls of different schools and communities is educationally sound and not without social significance.

Buildings

By private subscription supplemented by an interest-free Government loan the Church of England Secondary School for boys and girls has been enabled to erect new buildings. The

foundation stone was laid by His Excellency the Governor on 9th June, 1948, and the new school was ready for occupation at the end of the year. The buildings stand in seven acres of ground at Rose Hill giving room for ample playing-space and building extension.

Lack of buildings or serious overcrowding of available buildings continues to be a hindrance to both primary and secondary education. Mr. Nichols has recommended a new college for boys to include those now attending both the Royal College and Royal College School, and a college for girls who at present have no building at all. St. Joseph's College, St. Esprit College, and the Convents' schools for girls have fine buildings in good grounds but the other secondary schools have to work under very difficult conditions. This tends to establish a vicious circle since their efficiency is impaired by poor conditions and their lack of efficiency makes it difficult to recognise them for a grant-in-aid. With the full attention of the new Supervisor it is hoped to be able to exercise more care in their direction.

The relief of the serious overcrowding of primary schools under the Department's Development and Welfare programme has been carried a further stage. The foundation stone of a new building at Plaine des Papayes was laid by His Excellency the Governor in May. This school will have spacious class-rooms, an assembly hall, water-borne sanitation and showers. It is built in local basalt from plans prepared by the Public Works Department.

Professor Thornton White of Cape Town has produced full working plans for schools at Rivière du Rempart for 500-600 children and at Crève Coeur for 250-300 children. These schools will have good classrooms, adequate cloak-rooms, lavatories and showers. As at Plaine des Papayes it is proposed that each school should have an Assembly Hall which will be used not only by the school children as a meeting-place and gymnasium but the people of the village for business meetings and entertainments. The school in rural villages is usually the only possible place for the villagers to meet, to hold Village Councils, classes and social gatherings. An Assembly hall is as much a benefit to the community as a whole as it is to the school and will do much to make the people of the locality socially-minded. This, in its turn, should increase their interest in their children's education and make it easier for the teachers to make their influence felt. Professor Thornton White visited Mauritius at the end of the year to finalise these plans and all that now remains is the consent of Legislative Council. New schools were also opened at Fond du Sac, Pointe aux Piments and at the Training College, Beau Bassin.

Schoolchildren's Health

Buildings and health are closely connected, and hand in hand with building plans has gone work to improve the general health standard of school children. The newly-appointed Schools' Health Officer together with the Nutrition Officer have concentrated attention on the school meals scheme. Further experiment has been carried out on diet for the cooked meal and a "snack" meal of skimmed milk, reinforced biscuits and vitamin tablets was introduced into some schools. School meals have entirely justified themselves and a body of reliable information now exists to provide guidance when the extension of this service becomes possible. The work of supervising the medical aspects of the school meals scheme gave the Health Officer an excellent opportunity to study the whole question of health in the primary schools. Experiments to determine the effect of malaria and hookworm infestation on malnutrition led to significant discoveries about the level of health amongst the child population and to plans for the setting up a pilot Schools' Medical Service for the south of the Island. A Schools' Clinic was opened at Mahebourg at the end of the year.

A cleaner-teeth campaign launched in 1947 continued to be waged in the primary schools. 40,000 toothbrushes at 20 cents each were sold to school children, racks were made for housing them and a daily teeth-cleaning drill was instituted. This campaign has proved so successful that a further supply of brushes and a large stock of solid dentifrice are on order. By this means it is hoped to ameliorate dental conditions among children. To assist in anti-malaria propaganda essay competitions among secondary school pupils and Training College students were held with the co-operation of the Medical Department.

Holiday Camp

The Schools Holiday Camp was a new venture in 1947. It proved so popular and successful that this year it was run for a longer time, being open from the 12th to the 23rd July and from the 1st September to the 30th October, in the intervening period the quarters reverting to their rightful purpose as a quarantine station. The new Youth Organizer with the help of Training College students was in charge of the camp and the children were inspected on their arrival and on their departure by the Schools Health Officer who kept a careful eye on their health. The atmosphere was pleasant and happy and the children thoroughly enjoyed their short stay. About 90 children at a time were accommodated in the camp and each party spent a week there. Last year the children had to pay for their food and transport, but it was found possible this year to run the camp from Government funds, the children having to pay only their transport to and from the site.

Youth Organizer

The Holiday Camp is only one of the Youth Organizer's activities. There is no doubt about the desire of young Mauritians to run clubs ; they fall over themselves in their eagerness to found clubs in both towns and villages. Having started them, however, they have not the necessary knowledge and experience to know how to carry them on and keep up the enthusiasm. What is necessary, therefore, is to train young leaders how to run these clubs. A start was made in August when a camp was run at Mahebourg attended by a representative selection of young Mauritians. Lectures were given by the Youth Organizer and by visiting lecturers on various topics of interest to club leaders, debates and discussions were held, and excursions were made. A fine spirit prevailed in the camp. It is hoped that permanent camping quarters for the Youth Movements will be made available at Cap Malheureux.

Training College

In September the Training College put into effect its new programme for speeding up the production of teachers. This is the beginning of a four-year plan to turn out altogether 360 teachers in an attempt to relieve the present understaffing in the primary schools. Unfortunately, an increase in the number of regular students means that the still-depleted staff has little time for extension work and refresher courses, or for the training of secondary school teachers. It was found possible, however, to open an experimental school at the beginning of the year. The Headmaster of this school is seconded for three years from one of the aided primary schools and his staff are selected from past students of the College who showed themselves particularly keen both in the College course and in their school work thereafter. The school forms a good experimental ground for new ideas and methods and ensures that Training College staff will not allow their theory to outrun the capabilities of teachers and taught.

In order that people might come to understand and to appreciate the new work being initiated at the Training College, an open week was held in July preceded by radio propaganda by members of the staff and general public. All primary school teachers, a selection of secondary school teachers, officials of other departments, parents and friends of students and children of the school attended, there being about 400 people present each day. A play, some educational films, a display of dancing, an exhibition of the students' own art and handicraft work, geographical and scientific models, and infant method apparatus were among the attractions. The experimental school opened its doors to show real live children doing their normal work,

The Training College is still in its temporary site at Beau Bassin but Professor Thornton White returned from Cape Town towards the end of December with a new site plan and final plans for a residential college with experimental school attached. The College has been waiting for years to enter the promised land and all that remains now is the final approval of these plans and of the expenditure they entail.

Agricultural and Technical Training

Education in Mauritius has in the past tended to be too academic, with little relation to the fact that the large majority of the children will not go beyond the primary schools and will, after their schooling, be employed as agriculturists or artisans. This was realised in 1940 and the Director was made responsible for the developing of agricultural and technical training and for making the education of all classes more practical. This object has been kept in view particularly during recent years and in 1948 certain plans came to fruition. In the first place, an appointment to the Inspectorate was made from the Agricultural Department. The work of this Inspector will be to supervise, encourage and make suggestions in regard to school gardens and farms. This has always been one of the extension works of the Training College but it will now be given more prominence and teachers will appreciate that it is not just one of these extra frills. So far as technical education is concerned the first of a series of Handicraft and Home-craft Centres was opened at Rose Hill in the grounds of the Education Office in June 1948. This centralises the teaching of these subjects in the district. The staff consists of graduates of the Training College who have also been given a special course in their subject. Each of the primary schools of the area sends one class of girls and one class of boys for either a morning or afternoon. The girls learn housewifery, infant care and cooking, the boys bookbinding and carpentry. The foundation stone of another centre at Port Louis was laid by His Excellency the Governor on 30th September, 1948.

A step towards the establishment of a technical school for children was also taken by the appointment of two tutors of the Training College to run a course in theoretical engineering for apprentices at the Railway Workshop.

Publicity

In July was initiated a small publicity committee of members of the Department attended by the Colony's Public Relations Officer. The object of the Committee is to co-ordinate and direct the information given to the public concerning the work of the Department and to focus attention by a particular drive on whatever aspect of the work appears to be most interesting. So far,

special publicity has been given to the Training College, overseas scholarships, the practical work of the Department and school meals. The Committee is planning to issue a series of booklets of interest to the general public, and is also occupied in preparing a series of film-strips and film scenarios to illustrate what is being done for education in Mauritius.

Texts

The text-books in use in Primary Schools are not of the best and it has been for long the desire of the Department to prepare and issue new texts. A start has been made by the re-editing and re-illustrating of the Oxford English Course in order to adapt it to the needs of Mauritian children. The first of these was published at the end of this year and it is hoped to have the whole series in production by the end of 1949. Meanwhile a syllabus has been published in Geography and an Arithmetic text-book for teachers has been produced.

Salaries and Pensions

Proposals for improved salaries for Education Officers were approved by the Secretary of State but were still awaiting the approval of Legislative Council at the end of the year. The Commission of Enquiry into the salaries of primary school teachers presented its report which is still being studied by Government. The question of pensions at Government rates for teachers in aided primary schools has made further progress and enacting legislation is likely to come to Council early in 1949.

HEALTH

Little or no improvement in the staffing position of the Medical Services took place during 1948. Two Medical Officers and an Orthopaedic Surgeon joined the department on first appointment: three senior Medical Officers retired. Two ladies were appointed as Occupational Therapists in October.

Building Programme

At the Civil Hospital, Port Louis, two of the new wards are now completed and construction of a third is about to commence. At the Mental Hospital, Beau Bassin, one new ward is occupied and another is in course of construction.

The plans of the new Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Centres (the latter of which will constitute the Mauritius War Memorial) are now complete and the site has been acquired. It is hoped that construction will begin early in 1949.

Clinics

The dental clinic for school children in Port Louis becomes increasingly popular as time goes on. During 1948 a total of 12,258 patients received treatment in this clinic. There is an urgent need for an extension of this service to rural areas, and the possibility of instituting a mobile dental unit for this purpose is under consideration.

An ante-natal clinic was established at the Civil Hospital early in 1947. Attendances at first were small but the public soon learned the value of ante-natal care. During 1948 the weekly attendances rose to between 70 and 80. The appreciation of expectant mothers is shown by the regularity with which they revisit the clinic at the prescribed intervals.

A similar clinic was instituted at Flacq hospital in November. Here too the attendances in the initial stages have been small, but there is little reason to doubt that during the coming year the clinic will become increasingly popular.

Eye and orthopaedic clinics are conducted in the Civil, Victoria and Moka hospitals.

Dispensaries

Through the addition of one new unit the mobile dispensary service has now been extended to cover certain of the more remote villages in the districts of Grand Port, Savanne, Pamplemousses and Flacq. Weekly visits are made, and the attendances indicate that an extension of this service would meet a real need.

Training of Personnel

Seven Mauritian women are at present in hospitals in the United Kingdom undergoing training for State Registration as nurses. In Mauritius, the course of training for the Nurses' Certificate has been extended to three years. The teaching schools are at the Civil and Victoria Hospitals.

The teaching of midwifery to nursing students is now a separate course and recruitment is being started.

The course for Sanitary Inspectors, the syllabus of which is based on that of the Royal Sanitary Institute, comprises eighteen months of theoretical teaching and practical work in the field. Nine students obtained the certificate in 1948 and there are five others at present in training.

Two sanitary inspectors completed a course in East Africa in 1948 and one other is at present undergoing training in England.

Public Health

It is a matter for some concern that "Injuries" head the list of the causes of morbidity. Details are not yet available, so it remains to be seen what proportion of these deaths is due to road accidents. Next on the list come malaria, anaemia, intestinal and respiratory diseases.

Anti-Malaria measures

The permanent works, i.e., canalisation of river and streams and draining of marshes, and the various measures of routine control of mosquito breeding during the past five years have amply demonstrated their value in the districts in which they have been carried out. In the town of Port Louis, for instance, the spleen rate has been reduced to negligible proportions. In the outskirts it has been reduced by between 20% and 50%. The construction of new houses in areas previously largely abandoned is in itself evidence of the change. The striking reduction in the death rate of those districts where measures have been undertaken furnishes further proof of the value of this work, as it is generally recognised that a reduction of the incidence of malaria has an immediate effect on morbidity due to other diseases.

A team of research workers under the auspices of the Colonial Insecticides Committee arrived in the Colony on 9th November to carry out a large scale experiment to determine whether malaria can be eradicated from an island by the use of insecticides alone.

Anaemia

Macrocytic anaemia continues to be a matter of serious concern, particularly in its effect on expectant and nursing mothers. Little improvement can be expected until an ample supply of suitable foodstuffs at reasonable prices becomes available. An extension of ante-natal clinics should help to some extent by enabling expectant mothers to obtain the requisite treatment before confinement.

Intestinal diseases

The generally low standard of sanitation together with the shortage or, in some cases, absence of satisfactory water supplies in certain rural areas results in a high incidence of diseases of the alimentary tract such as enteric fever, dysentery and enteritis. Only a part of Port Louis has a water-carriage system of sewerage, the disposal of night-soil elsewhere in the capital being by means of privy pits or buckets. The assistance of a consulting engineer from Johannesburg has been obtained to prepare a sewerage scheme for the townships of Curepipe, Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill and Beau Bassin and the preliminary survey has now been completed. The population affected amounts to 67,569.

It will be of interest to observe what effect the spraying of the interiors of houses with insecticides will have on these intestinal diseases.

Sanitary services

The cleansing services of the local authorities have been reorganised, and with the acquisition of modern equipment there has been a marked improvement in the sanitation of these built-up areas. In the rural districts this service is still very primitive, but even there some improvement is evident. An effort is being made to arouse the interest of the people themselves by encouraging selected Village Councils to undertake their own scavenging services. In some cases this has been taken up with enthusiasm and with marked benefit to the appearance and health of the villages.

Orthopaedic Workshop

The severity of the 1945 epidemic of Poliomyelitis made it necessary to set up an orthopaedic workshop for the manufacture of the frames, splints and other appliances required for the rehabilitation of the victims of this dreadful disease. This work was entrusted to long-term prisoners under the direction of the Assistant Superintendent of Prisons who in 1946-47 followed an extensive course of training in the U.K. The policy of employing long-term prisoners on this work has fully justified itself, and the quality of the work they turn out has been highly commended by those best qualified to judge. So far the appliances have been hand-made, but some machinery received from the Wingfield Morris Orthopaedic Hospital in Oxford is now being installed. The Central Prison in Port Louis is reserved exclusively for this orthopaedic work.

HOUSING

Housing conditions vary enormously in Mauritius, from the spacious and luxurious homes of the well-to-do to the thatched mud-hut of the peasant. The housing of the poorer classes of the community was investigated by the Health and Welfare Committee of the Mauritius Economic Commission in 1948. It reported that "housing conditions in general are bad, particularly in rural areas, while in the towns something approaching slum conditions has developed. Outhouses and shacks have been permitted to spring up mushroom—like with no regard to hygiene or to planning, to the detriment often of good substantial buildings." The Committee considered that improvement in housing was one of the most urgent and most important problems to be faced, and were of the opinion that housing construction in future should be controlled according to approved plans for the locality.

Planning on comprehensive lines, for towns, villages, estate camps and schools is going ahead under the direction of Professor Thornton White, F.R.I.B.A., head of the Capetown University School of Architecture. Professor Thornton White first visited the Colony in early 1947 to advise on town planning and slum clearance and has since made a number of return visits.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Mauritius has had over two centuries of civilization during which social welfare services have gradually developed. In the past there has been little Government intervention in this field save in the regulation of private charity by legal measures. The administration is now taking a much more active part in social welfare work by having picked Mauritian officers trained in the U.K., and attaching them in a specialist capacity to various government departments on their return. Public assistance work has been decentralised and the public brought into close co-operation with the authorities in the distribution of relief. Official support is being given to a School for the Blind. Medical assistance is provided free to the poor at public dispensaries. Youth clubs, holiday camps and other welfare activities of the young are being developed by the Youth Organiser attached to the Education Department. The Public Relations Office Mobile Cinema unit is on constant tour in the rural districts. Under the guidance of the three Civil Commissioners the sixty village councils in existence by the end of 1948 were concentrating mainly on social welfare work in their own localities. Some of the welfare projects undertaken by these village councils were the construction of playing fields, the sponsoring of sewing classes for girls and handicrafts for boys, the creation of lending libraries and the active support of extra-mural activities in the village schools.

Relief of the destitute and disabled

The outstanding feature of the administration of poor relief during 1948 was the organisation of constructive welfare services designed to help the poor and their dependants in various ways. The Public Assistance Committees which are now functioning all over the island widened the scope of their activities. In a number of districts welfare centres sponsored by these Committees have been started. The aim of these centres is:

- (a) to provide the people of the area with education in citizenship, music, drama and other cultural subjects, also to give instruction and training in agriculture, handicrafts, domestic science, health and social welfare ;
- (b) to provide a meeting place for social intercourse and activities as well as facilities for clinical work ;
- (c) to develop co-operative enterprise.



COUNCIL CHAMBER, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, 1ST SEPTEMBER, 1948.
The newly sworn-in members meet to hear a message from the Governor.



OPENING OF COUNCIL. CEREMONIAL PARADE



ONE OF THE NEW CO-OPERATIVE STORE SOCIETIES



EX-SERVICEMEN'S HOME, PORT LOUIS. READING ROOM

In achieving this aim they will work in close collaboration with the Village Councils many of whose members also sit on the Public Assistance Committees. The centres are partly financed by local organisations and partly by the Labour Welfare Fund. They are managed by voluntary workers and where clinical arrangements have been provided local doctors give their services free. In the handicrafts sections, the children of the village are taught various types of occupation, such as sewing, knitting, straw-hat making, basket-making, etc. During Christmas week a free distribution of food and clothing was made in some areas by the Public Assistance Committees to recipients of relief, and gifts were given to the children.

Orphanages

Reform in the orphanages has proceeded at an encouraging pace. With the introduction of the "godmother" scheme the children, in addition to receiving the usual care and attention, are able to look to somebody outside who will send an occasional gift to cheer them up. Very little can be done for the destitute old or for the confirmed "habitués" of the institutions, but for the very young constructive welfare is of vital importance. The children are encouraged to maintain contacts with their relatives outside the institutions and "godmothers" are asked to take them out occasionally. The orphanages are handicapped by lack of funds, and it is difficult to put into practice any welfare scheme without some form of financial assistance to supplement the government grants.

Help the Children Fund

A Help the Children Fund was accordingly established with the object of relieving the distressed children of Mauritius. In his opening speech to the new Legislative Council the Governor made the following reference to this activity:

"I have welcomed with pleasure a project which has been sponsored by the Public Assistance Advisory Board for the creation of a "Help the Children Fund" with a view to alleviating the distress of the poorer children of this Island. It is proposed, I understand, to appeal for funds from private sources, not merely with the object of raising money for the benefit of orphans, but to enlist the widest support of the community in a campaign of giving all the protection and help we can to those who are deprived by circumstances of a proper family life. I have not the slightest doubt that this humanitarian enterprise will meet with the most cordial response from the whole community."

An island-wide collection was launched on 22nd December. Sugar estates, trading concerns, banks and other institutions subscribed generously. In one locality, in an out-of-the-way place, the inhabitants who were mostly of the labouring class had no opportunity to put their coins in the collecting boxes which had been distributed. A few days later they forwarded to the organisers a sum of Rs. 45 collected in the village. This gesture is an evidence of the sense of solidarity which all classes of the people of Mauritius feel with the promoters of this movement.

All the publicity resources of the colony were used to support the appeal made by the Committee. There were articles in the press every day, talks in the evening programme of the Mauritius Broadcasting Service and sermons in the Churches. Leaflets were dropped from airplanes and slides were projected on the cinema screens. Final figures are not yet available, but it is clear that the Fund has received wide support.

Festivals

At intervals, festivals and rejoicings were organised for the benefit of the inmates of institutions. Local authorities were encouraged to make some contribution towards these welfare arrangements. All the children in the orphanages, both state-aided and private, were given a fortnight's holiday at the Canonniere's Point Holiday Camp. Recreations were under the guidance of the Youth Organiser. Members of Legislative Council and other prominent persons visited the holiday camp. Cases of fruits and parcels of sweets were sent to the children by voluntary organisations.

Infirmaries

A medical survey was made in all the infirmaries to ascertain the degree of physical fitness of inmates who could do some work in the institutions. As a result of this survey an experimental rehabilitation scheme has been started in one of the institutions and the progress made so far has been satisfactory.

School for the Blind

During 1948 a new venture was undertaken by the School for the Blind—the introduction of ex-servicemen who, though not blind, had been incapacitated during the war. At the end of the year, the School comprised 22 blind persons, 10 invalids and 35 ex-servicemen. Joinery, shoe-making, basket-making and rug-making are the principal occupations of the pupils.

Grants to Voluntary Organisations

During 1948 grants and other forms of assistance to voluntary organisations were as follows:

Maternity and Child Welfare	...	Rs. 40,412.96
Oeuvre du Diner des Pauvres	...	5,484.00
Crèche de Bonne Terre	... ..	768.00

Social Welfare Training

Classes in social welfare were held every saturday at the Royal College School in Port Louis. The following subjects were covered: education and social welfare, social anthropology, social psychology, social medicine and sanitation, public health and nutrition, delinquency and public administration. It is interesting to note that out of three candidates who were selected for the post of Probation Officers two had followed this course.

Juvenile delinquency

Juvenile offenders are dealt with in the first instance by the Probation Officers. After a careful enquiry has been made the magistrates of the Juvenile Courts either release them on probation, send them to the Industrial School or, if they are older than 18 years, detain them at the Borstal Institution. This institution was opened in October 1947 and had 23 inmates by the end of the year. A further 57 were admitted during 1948, bringing the total up to 80. There are four grades of detainees—ordinary, probationary, special and penal. After four months in the first grade boys are promoted to the second provided their work and conduct has been satisfactory. They spend eight months in the probationary grade, from which promotion to the special grade qualifies them for a position of trust and certain privileges. Misconduct or idleness brings about reduction to the penal grade. Trades taught are carpentry, basket making, tinsmithing, tailoring and barbering. Boys not engaged in a trade do manual work in the garden and buildings of the institution. A Borstal Visiting Committee which meets once a month and, among other things, decides on questions of release, was formed in February 1948.

The Industrial School which was created in 1936 is run on the lines of an Approved School in England.

There were 104 admissions in 1948, of which 78 were for offences against the penal code and 26 for juvenile vagrancy. The daily average population during the year was 161.4. Boys are sent to this school for 3, 4 or 5 years, or until the age of 18 if they are over 15 on admission. The school is divided into a Junior and Senior section, the age of 14 being the dividing line. Vocational training is given in a number of trades. Teaching in class-room subjects is carried out by an assistant chief officer and three teachers, all seconded from the Education Department.

Attendance at school is compulsory. Drill and P.T., football, volley-ball and boxing are an important part of the school programme. The welfare activities of the boys include scouting, a life-and-drum band, monthly cinema shows, listening to the radio and making use of the school library. Boys are allowed regular visits from relatives and friends, and those who hold the rank of special grade are granted week-end leave.

Probation Services

The Probation of Offenders Ordinance (No. 58 of 1946) came into force in June 1947, and was made applicable to the district courts of Port Louis, Rose Hill and Curepipe. Prior to this a local civil servant who had followed the Home Office Probation Officer's Course and gained practical experience in the London Probation Service, had returned to the island and taken up his duties as Probation Officer. In 1947, probation reports on 174 cases were submitted to the Courts. This number was increased to 347 in 1948. In July 1947, control over the probation service was transferred from the Prisons to the Judicial department, so that no stigma should be attached to it in people's minds and in order to place emphasis on the reformatory rather than the punitive aspect of the problem.

In April 1948, the system was extended to two other district courts, Pamplemousses and Moka. It will be applied to the remaining four courts as soon as the training of three new probation officers is completed. Negotiations are being carried out for the setting-up of a Probation Hostel by a voluntary organisation as an experiment for the rehabilitation of youths whose home conditions are detrimental to their moral recovery.

Probation is being applied to adults as well as to young people, and it has been found that they respond to the treatment just as well as, if not better than the children. Public opinion in this field is being educated by means of radio talks and group discussions. And attention is being paid to the preventive aspect by finding suitable occupations for those whose lack of employment may lead them into delinquency.

In every Court where probation has been made applicable there is a Probation Committee composed of about half a dozen persons from different walks of life who pool their experience and goodwill with the Magistrate and the Probation Officer. There is also a Central Probation Committee which meets under the Master and Registrar, Supreme Court. This Central Committee is composed of Magistrates, a few Heads of Departments which specifically perform social services and representatives of the various religious denominations. The District or Case Committees bring the problems which they cannot solve on their own to the Central Probation Committee for the necessary help and guidance.

It is rather early to gauge exactly the success of the probation service but this much can be said about the System—that it has saved many persons from being acclimatized to institutional life and from the stigma of having been a prisoner. The majority of those put on probation have behaved well so far and have not committed a new offence. Only a few cases, where the parents have not played their full part in the work of reformation, have relapsed. A great future lies ahead of the probation service in Mauritius, especially when the part that it can play in the community for the prevention and treatment of crime is fully appreciated.

Chapter VIII : Legislation

Forty-nine Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and assented to by the Governor during the year 1948.

The majority of these Ordinances deal with matters of domestic concern of which the following are the more important:

1. The Sugar Industry Reserve Funds Ordinance, 1948 (Ordinance No. 3 of 1948).

This Ordinance implements an agreement entered into by the Ministry of Food and the Mauritius Sugar Syndicate whereby, out of the total price paid by His Majesty's Government for the purchase of every hundred weight of Mauritius sugars exported during the calendar year 1947, levies are to be effected by the Mauritius Sugar Syndicate for the establishment of Reserve Funds and for the payment into the Drought and Cyclone Insurance Fund of insurance premium due thereto.

The Ordinance further provides the necessary machinery for the administration and distribution of the Reserve Funds according to their appropriations and for the exemption from Poll Tax of the amounts levied.

2. The Legislative Council Ordinance, 1948. (Ordinance No. 6 of 1948).

This Ordinance was introduced as a result of the new constitution granted to the Colony. It provides for the compilation of registers of persons entitled to vote at elections of members of the Legislative Council, for the procedure to be followed in connection with those elections, and the return of elected candidates, for offences relating to the elections and the penalties for such offences.

The Fisheries Ordinance, 1948. (Ordinance No. 7 of 1948).

This Ordinance has consolidated and amended the laws by which fisheries were regulated in the Colony.

The control of fisheries has been transferred from the Commissioner of Police to the Director of Agriculture and control posts have been established, the personnel of which are intended to work in chain-like formation along the coast checking fishing activities.

The Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 1948. (Ordinance No. 10 of 1948).

This Ordinance has brought the law governing the widows' and orphans' pensions in the Colony more into line with modern practice.

The main changes are as follows:

- (a) the rates of contributions have been altered so as to simplify the computation of pensions, and the aggregate contributions which are paid under the new scale are slightly less than formerly ;
- (b) the option hitherto given to married associates to make additional contributions is suppressed ; and
- (c) the pensionable age of male children is raised from 18 to 21 years and provision is made for life-long pensions to mentally deficient children.

The Penicillin Ordinance, 1948. (Ordinance No. 11 of 1948).

This Ordinance was passed with a view to prevent the indiscriminate use of penicillin and other anti-microbial organic substances produced by living organisms ; it regulates the sale and supply of those drugs.

The Cyclone and Drought Insurance Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 1948. (Ordinance No. 19 of 1948) amending the Cyclone and Drought Insurance Fund Ordinance, 1946 (Ordinance No. 53 of 1946).

This Ordinance was passed to make it possible, on occasion arising, to decree a year to be a " drought year " or a " cyclone year " only as regards specified areas of the Colony and to make provision for the proper application by the estate with factory, miller or planter, of payments made to it or him, as the case may be, consequent upon the damage sustained through a drought or cyclone.

The Mauritius Naval Volunteer Defence Force Ordinance, 1948. (Ordinance No. 20 of 1948) and the Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force and Defence Ordinance, 1948. (Ordinance No. 44 of 1948).

These two Ordinances were passed in accordance with the provisions of the Colonial Naval Defence Act, 1931 (21 Geo. 5 ch. 9) for the purpose of enabling the Colony to set up a Naval Reserve Force and to maintain and use vessels of war, in conjunction with any other Colony or otherwise.

The Ordinance further provides for the conditions of service and rates of pay of officers and men who may be enlisted in the Force.

The District Magistrates (Special Criminal Jurisdiction) Ordinance, 1948. (Ordinance No. 21 of 1948).

This Ordinance has transferred to the ordinary Courts of criminal jurisdiction the powers which since 1947 had been exercised by the Controller of Supplies, of revoking or suspending licences to trade.

The Courts are empowered on convicting a trader for an offence against any enactment relating to the sale and distribution of supplies in the Colony, to cancel or suspend the licence or licences held by that trader ; a right of appeal being provided against any decision of the Magistrates under the Ordinance.

The Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation of Factories and Rolling Stock) Ordinance, 1948. (Ordinance No. 24 of 1948).

This Ordinance has implemented the decision of the Government to lend to the Sugar Industry the sum of six million rupees for rehabilitation of sugar factories and rolling stock.

The loans, which are secured by mortgages in favour of the Government, bear interest at the rate of 3% per annum and are payable by annual instalments over a period not exceeding twenty years.

The Local Bodies (Annual Grants) Ordinance, 1948. (Ordinance No. 25 of 1948).

This Ordinance has provided for grants to be annually voted by the Legislative Council in favour of the Municipality of Port Louis and the Boards set up in urban areas.

These grants will replace the various contributions which Government was hitherto bound by law to make to those bodies.

The Recovery of Deceased Persons' Debts Ordinance, 1948. (Ordinance No. 26 of 1948).

This Ordinance amends article 877 of the Civil Code and lays down a simplified procedure for the recovery by the holder of an executory title of a debt which a person, since deceased, had incurred towards him.

The Family Councils Abolition Ordinance, 1948. (Ordinance No. 27 of 1948).

This Ordinance has given effect to the recommendations of a committee appointed under the chairmanship of the Chief Justice to consider and report on the expediency or advisability of amending, *inter alia*, certain provisions of the law relating to minors.

Family councils, which hitherto advised on the appointment of guardians and subguardians to minors and interdicted persons and, on occasion arising, on the administration of their assets, have been abolished and their functions transferred to a judicial authority who shall be the Master and Registrar of the Supreme Court.

The Ordinance is to come into force on a date to be fixed by Proclamation ; that date has not yet been fixed.

The Muhammadan Waqf (Amendment) Ordinance, 1948. (Ordinance No. 30 of 1948) amending the Muhammadan Waqf Ordinance, 1941. (Ordinance No. 9 of 1941).

The object of this Ordinance was to improve the existing law on Waqfs in the light of experience gained in the application of that law.

The most important changes are as follows :

- (a) a waqif is authorised to give to his male descendants double the share he gives to his female descendants ;
- (b) a husband who is married under the system of legal community of goods may, with his wife's concurrence, dedicate common property by way of waqf ;
- (c) the Supreme Court is given power to authorise mutawallis to borrow money or to sell or exchange waqf property when the declaration of waqf contains no express provision to that effect ;
- (d) the Board of Waqf Commissioners, or any person having an interest in a property made waqf, is authorised, with the sanction of the Court, to contract a loan without mortgage in respect of that property.

The Sweepstakes and Bets (Levy of Tax) Ordinance, 1948. (Ordinance No. 35 of 1948).

This Ordinance was passed for the purpose of raising revenue. It provides for the levying of a tax of 10% :

- (a) on sweepstakes organised and conducted under the authority of the Mauritius Lotteries Ordinance, 1946, (No. 46 of 1946) and by the racing and yacht clubs enumerated in the Schedule to the Ordinance ; and

(b) on all bets made on the occasion of, or in connection with, race meetings or regattas held by those clubs.

Minimum penalties are provided for non-payment, or evasion, of tax.

The Local Bodies (Entertainment Duty) Ordinance, 1948. (Ordinance No. 40 of 1948).

This Ordinance has empowered the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis and the Township Boards to raise revenue by the imposition of a tax at a rate not exceeding 10% upon the amount of all payments for admission to entertainments held within the town of Port Louis and the Townships of Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes.

Certain entertainments are excluded from the operation of the Ordinance ; these include, *inter alia*, entertainments held for charitable, philanthropic and educational purposes.

The Rent Restrictions Ordinance, 1948. (Ordinance No. 41 of 1948).

By this Ordinance, permanent legislation has been introduced to replace the emergency legislation under which the control of rents was exercised during the war, as it appeared that the difficult conditions created by the war with regard to housing were likely to last for some considerable time.

The main features of the Ordinance are the following :

- (a) it affords protection to tenants from possible extortion at the hands of rapacious landlords ;
- (b) it ensures to landlords a fair and reasonable income derived from the letting of their properties ;
- (c) it restricts the landlord's right of evicting a tenant within well-defined limits ;
- (d) it makes provision for the compulsory letting of unoccupied property in certain cases ;
- (e) it imposes restrictions on subletting.

The Legislative Council (Allowances) Ordinance, 1948. (Ordinance No. 49 of 1948).

This Ordinance has provided for the allowances to be paid to elected and nominated members of the Legislative Council of the Colony. Under the Ordinance the Vice-President receives an annual allowance of Rs. 7,200 and every elected or nominated member an annual allowance of Rs. 6,000.

Chapter IX : Justice

The laws of Mauritius are mainly based on the French codes. The Civil Code ("Code Napoléon"), the Penal Code, the Code of Commerce and the Code of Civil Procedure, with some amendments to suit local conditions, are still in force in the Island.

The Local Bankruptcy Law, Law of Evidence and Law of Criminal Procedure are, however, mostly English as well as the whole system of Labour Law recently introduced into the Colony.

The highest judicial authority is the Supreme Court of Judicature presided over by the Chief Justice, assisted by two Puisne Judges. The executive officer of that Court is the Master and Registrar who is at the same time a Judge of the Bankruptcy Division of the Court.

The Supreme Court is a superior Court of Record and has the same powers, authority and jurisdiction as His Majesty's Court of King's Bench in England. It is also a Court of Equity and has Admiralty jurisdiction. It possesses an appellate jurisdiction over the judgments of all the other Courts of the Colony and of the Supreme Court of the Colony of Seychelles. Appeals may be made to the Privy Council against judgments of the Supreme Court.

Judges of the Supreme Court also preside over the Assize Court, the verdict being returned by a jury of nine men. The decision must be that of at least seven out of the nine members.

The District Magistrates of the Colony have jurisdiction in civil cases when the subject matter does not exceed one thousand rupees in value. They hold judicial enquiries in the case of accidental death or of fire, and preliminary enquiries in the case of offences triable at the Assize Court before which they may commit the accused to stand trial. In addition, they deal with certain matters in Chambers.

The jurisdiction of the District Courts in criminal matters is vested in a District Magistrate who deals with the less serious offences and is empowered to sentence an accused party to imprisonment with or without hard labour, for one year, and to payment of a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees.

Certain offences can only be tried by an intermediary Court consisting of a Bench of three magistrates who can sentence to penal servitude for three years and to payment of a fine not exceeding three thousand rupees.

There are nine district magistrates, one of whom, as Resident Magistrate, administers justice in the dependency of Rodrigues. A visiting magistrate inspects each of the lesser dependencies once a year.

There is also an Industrial Court presided over by a magistrate. This court has jurisdiction in all labour disputes, including workmen's compensation and matters arising out of factory legislation.

The administrative control over the magistracy, which was formerly exercised by the Procureur General has, since 1945, passed to the Chief Justice.

Reference has been made in Chapter 7 to the introduction of the probation system into Mauritius. It is anticipated that, with the training of the new recruits as Probation Officers, it will be possible in 1949 to extend this system to the whole island.

There has been no appreciable variation in the number of cases tried by the various Courts of the Colony, except in the Bankruptcy Court where a steady increase is being observed, and in the Industrial Court where the number of matters coming up for discussion and settlement in Chambers has also increased.

POLICE

History

The origin of a Police organization in Mauritius has been traced back to as far as 1766 when the island was a French possession.

In 1810, after the British occupation, the then existing police organization apparently continued under British administration, Mr. A. W. Blane being the first British Officer to command what is now the Mauritius Police Force.

From time to time the Force was reorganized and its present organization appears to have been the result of recommendations of a Commission of Enquiry in 1859, which amalgamated the Police with the Municipal Police under one superior command bearing the title of Inspector General of Police. This title was replaced in 1934 by that of Commissioner of Police.

The Police Ordinance giving effect to the report of the 1859 Commission was subsequently replaced by the Police Ordinance of 1893 which, after 55 years, is still in force, though amended from time to time. This Ordinance regulates the organization, discipline, powers and duties of the force, as well as the enlistment, engagement and re-engagement of the personnel and the conditions of service of members of the force.

Organization

After a serious political riot in 1911, the Mauritius Police started elementary military training and was gradually converted into a semi-military force in the ensuing years as a result of increased responsibility in the maintenance of internal order and to deal with emergencies created by the two World Wars.

With the return of peace and relatively normal local conditions, the military characteristics of the force as a lethal striking power have been almost completely removed. However, training in elementary and baton drills is still maintained and a certain number of the personnel are trained in the use of tear gas. In addition to a static reserve in Port Louis, each district is now provided with baton and tear gas sections which may be mobilized at short notice.

Communications throughout the force are maintained by telephone and, when and if required, by despatch riders. Mobile wireless sections consisting of three Ford station wagons fitted with W/T units and a static wireless station are also available, by means of which communications can be established between the remotest part of the island and Police Headquarters in cases of emergency.

The force is responsible for its own mobility, and is equipped to move 300 men at short notice to any part of the island and to maintain a line of communication with Police Headquarters for supplies, re-inforcement, etc.

In addition to its primary responsibility for preventing and detecting crimes and maintaining law and order, the force is responsible for the control of immigration and emigration, weights and measures, the issuing of licences (motor vehicles, drivers, liquor, firearms, etc.), the collection of inland revenue (amounting to over one and a half million rupees), the supervision of licensed premises and other extraneous duties.

With the spread of education and political consciousness among the population, and with the advent of modern means of communications, the policeman, even in this remote part of the Empire, has to be educated, intelligent and possessed of a high degree of initiative and sense of civic responsibility if he is to play his part properly and efficiently.

Establishment

The present establishment of the force is 25 gazetted officers and 682 other ranks (excluding the Band). This represents one policeman per 638 head of population. The personnel of the force is composed of locally-born men, with the exception of four British officers posted from Great Britain or transferred from other Colonial forces. The reduction in the number of British officers from 10 to 4 implements the policy of Government to appoint as many local officers as possible to the higher ranks of the force. There are also twenty local police-women employed on clerical duties.

Distribution of Personnel

The personnel of the force is distributed among:

- (a) Police Headquarters and its eight branches ;
- (b) six District Police Headquarters controlling 43 police stations and posts ;
- (c) the Forensic Science Laboratory ;
- (d) the Railway police ;
- (e) the Rodriguez police.

Police Headquarters

The Commissioner of Police, assisted by his Deputy Commissioner and various other officers, controls the whole force from his headquarters situated in the historic compound of Line Barrack (of French construction) in Port Louis.

The following special branches of the force are each under the charge of a gazetted officer:

Criminal Investigation Department.

Pay and Quartermaster Branch.

Road Traffic Branch.

Revenue and Liquor Branch.

Training School.

Police Armoury.

Band.

Water Police.

The Criminal Investigation Department and Crime

This organization, with an effective strength of 2 officers and 28 other ranks, is responsible for the investigation of serious crimes and cases of a special nature ; it also affords assistance to the district police when necessary.

To the Criminal Investigation Department are attached the Finger Print and *Modus Operandi* Bureau, the Photographic Section, the Immigration and Passport Section and the Central Registry of Habitual Criminals.

The total number of crimes, misdemeanours and contraventions dealt with by the Police during 1948 was 40,804, as against 41,026 in 1947.

More than two-thirds of these cases were of a minor character and included contraventions of all types (26,211), petty larcenies, trivial assaults, etc. The total number of cases classified as crimes during the year was only 739. There has been no serious outbreak of crime in the Colony in recent years. Regular patrols by men on foot and in vehicles, the systematic and continuous supervision of bad characters, receivers of stolen property and habitual criminals have proved an efficient deterrent to the criminal class.

Firearms are rigidly controlled. During the year 4,976 firearm licences were issued.

The Pay and Quartermaster Branch

Under the charge of the Pay and Quartermaster of the force, this Branch is divided into two sections ; the Pay section and the Store section, the latter under the special charge of the Assistant Pay and Quartermaster.

The Pay section is specially responsible for all the finance and accounting of the force and for the collection of inland revenue ; the Store section deals with the indenting of materials, the manufacture and issue of uniform to all ranks, and the supply generally of stores and accoutrements to the force.

Road Traffic Control and Police Transport

With the great increase of motor vehicles in the Colony since the end of the war, road traffic conditions in Mauritius are now such that the work of the Traffic Control branch has become considerably more important and arduous during the last two years.

The following table shows the present strength of the Branch in personnel and vehicles, compared to what it was in the two last decades :

PERSONNEL						1928	1938	1948
Officers	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2
Warrant Officers	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1
N. C. Os	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	9
Constables	...	...	...	...	...	5	13	62
Police Women	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	3
TOTAL						10	18	77
VEHICLES						1928	1938	1948
Lorries	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	5
Motor Wagon	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Motor Cars	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4
Wireless vans	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	3
Jeep Station Wagons	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	4
Vans	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1
Ford Station Wagons	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	6
Motor cycles (combinations)	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	—
Motor cycles (solos)	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	16
TOTAL						6	6	39

Among the many duties for which the Traffic Branch is responsible are the enforcement of the Road Traffic Ordinance and Regulations, the control of traffic on the roads, the licensing of drivers and vehicles and the examination of goods and public service vehicles,

Motor cycle patrols cover the main roads of the island by day and by night and are responsible for reporting offences against the traffic laws, for preventing such offences as far as they possibly can and endeavouring to teach driving discipline and road courtesy. Similarly, foot patrols are employed in Port Louis regulating traffic, enforcing parking regulations and dealing with cases of obstruction. One of the wireless vans is fitted with a loud-speaker unit which is used for traffic and crowd control.

The police garage, staffed by a sergeant-mechanic assisted by eight mechanics, one coach builder, two painters, one upholsterer and one electrician, is equipped to carry out the maintenance of and repairs to the thirty-nine vehicles belonging to the force.

A drawing office with a qualified draughtsman in charge is also attached to the branch.

One of the most difficult problems with which the police and the motoring public have to contend is the absence of large parking areas in the main towns.

The Revenue and Liquor Branch

This branch controls the collection of inland revenue and for that purpose keeps a card index record of the 8,860 trade licences, issued quarterly. Regular checks of the premises of licencees are affected by the personnel of the branch, whose duties are also to prevent and detect offences against the Distillery, Liquor, Dangerous Drugs and Weights and Measures laws.

The recent limitation in the output of rum for local consumption resulted in the increased activity of illicit distillers working bush stills, and in the removal of rum from licensed distilleries without paying the prescribed excise duties. These frauds were successfully combatted though results were not easy to achieve on account of the bushy nature of the waste lands frequented by the illicit distillers; these places have to be approached by night after long marches through marshy grounds, as pickets are placed at strategic places by the distillers.

The Training School

Recruits from among young men of the local population are enlisted between the ages of 18 and 25, after undergoing educational and medical examinations. Selections are finally made by a Standing Board of officers appointed for the purpose.

The school aims at training the members of the force on the same lines as the training given in England, and to inculcate in them tact, patience, tolerance, good humour, initiative and the ability to rely on their own judgment and resources

In recent years great difficulty has been experienced in inducing suitable candidates to join the force, as conditions of service and pay are better in other branches of the service or in private firms outside. This state of affairs, if not remedied, will very much impair the efficiency of the force in the very near future.

The period of training of recruits at the Training School is six months, which affords ample time to the instructors to give them adequate instruction in laws, police duties and procedure, general knowledge, first aid, elementary drill, riot drill and physical training.

Recruits undergo theoretical training during the first three months, and practical training including station and street duties during the second half of their stage at the School.

During the year two senior N.C.Os. were sent to the United Kingdom for advanced courses of training in police duties. One of them qualified with a high percentage of marks at the Metropolitan Police Detective Training School, Hendon, and the other was still following a course at the end of the year.

The Band

The Mauritius Police Band which was created in 1921 is a full military brass band, composed of fully trained musicians. The dance orchestra formed in 1947 from among members of the band, is much appreciated by the dancing fans of the community. The full band, its wind quintet and the dance orchestra broadcast occasionally over the Mauritius Broadcasting Service. The band also gives public performances and concerts throughout the island, and is available for private engagements on fee.

The Water Police

A Water Police Unit was established during the early part of 1948. The unit is composed of one N.C.O. and six constables possessing special aptitude for duties afloat. The unit operates an up-to-date motor launch, the "Alert."

The main duties of the unit are general harbour work on the arrival and departure of ships, day and night patrols, and the maintenance of order in the harbour of Port Louis, the prevention of illegal emigration and immigration and, with the co-operation of the Customs Department and Port Services, the prevention of smuggling and of the illicit trade in dangerous drugs.

During the year, the "Alert" boarded 173 ships calling at and leaving Mauritius.

Police Districts

Although geographically the island is divided into 9 districts, for the purposes of police administration the Colony is divided into 6 police districts.

The districts of Port Louis and Upper Plaines Wilhems, which are the most important residential areas, each constitute one police district. The remaining districts are grouped into 4 country police districts. A Superintendent is in charge of each police district and is responsible to the Commissioner of Police for the efficient enforcement of law and order in his district.

Police districts are sub-divided into station areas, each of which is controlled by a police station under the charge of an N.C.O. with a staff of constables under him.

The district police are also responsible for all criminal prosecutions before their respective district courts.

Police districts are provided with independent transport in the shape of station wagons posted at district headquarters and bicycles at all police stations. District means of transport can be implemented without delay by requisition on the Traffic Branch.

Games, Recreations and Amenities

As much time as possible is devoted to the playing of games and to recreation generally. The force possesses good football and hockey teams. Basket ball was introduced recently. Inter-district and friendly matches with local teams are frequently played.

The officers, n.c.o's and constables each have their own mess and recreation rooms.

A canteen, stocked with a great variety of dry provisions and commodities and bottled liquors, is open to all ranks of the force. Here the best quality goods can be purchased at minimum prices. Goods are sent carriage free to members of the force posted in any part of the island and in the dependency of Rodriguez.

The police band contributes to official and semi-official functions in the various messes and institutions of the force.

A library and reading room is open daily to members of the force and to public subscribers. Books, reviews and newspapers regularly imported from Europe and America are exchanged and circulated throughout the Colony among members of the force posted at out-stations in the country districts.

The stock of English and French books at the library is over 12,500.

Contributions are received and are welcomed in the shape of books and newspapers from the British Council, the Chinese Consul, the Commissioner for India, the Public Relations Office etc.

The Police Museum

A police museum which contains a fine collection of exhibits connected with important criminal cases, of firearms and other offensive weapons, bush stills, historical documents, dossiers and photographs, is open daily to all ranks of the force and the general public and has proved to be of great interest to visitors.

Forensic Science Laboratory

This important institution of the force was established in 1938 and is believed to be the only one of its kind in the Colonial Police Forces. It is under the charge of the Police Medical Officer assisted by a suitably trained staff.

In addition to the co-operation it brings about between the scientist and the police officer in the investigation of crime—so essential in these modern times—the work of this branch includes the keeping of up-to-date records of sickness of all members of the force, the scientific examination of exhibits (including documents), research work, and the examination of candidates for enlistment.

Lectures on medical jurisprudence, first aid and hygiene are regularly delivered by the Medical Officer.

First Aid—St. John's Ambulance Association

Courses of instruction in first aid were given to members of the police force, the Railway Department and the Fire Brigade. All lectures were delivered by qualified Medical Officers with the assistance of instructors for practical demonstrations, in accordance with the regulations of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade Overseas. Examinations were held during the year. 77 members of the force are now qualified and are holders of the St. John's certificate.

Three courses of lectures followed by an examination are held yearly for new candidates, and refresher courses followed by re-examination are given to qualified members so as to maintain the necessary standard of knowledge in first aid.

The results of examinations held during the year show that steady progress has been made in this direction.

A Mauritius police division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade Overseas has been formed and registered at the Overseas Headquarters in England.

Cinema Film Censorship

The Commissioner of Police is the chairman of the Cinema Censorship Committee, whose records are kept at police headquarters. The Committee viewed 487 films in 1948 as compared to 393 in 1947. The majority of films projected on the screens of the Colony are French and Indian. A few English and American films are also received.

The Censorship Committee's policy is that films released for public exhibition should conform with proper standards of decency and morality, and that nothing likely to prejudice the safety of the state or law and order should be exhibited.

PRISONS

A Commission of Enquiry was set up in December 1947 to enquire into the conditions existing in H.M. Prisons in Mauritius, with particular reference to the administration of the prisons, the state of discipline and the conduct of prison officers.

Arising out of the report of this commission, a civil service committee was appointed to investigate and report upon a number of charges of a disciplinary nature formulated against one of the Senior Prison Officers. This officer was exonerated from blame and resumed duty. A general Board of Survey was concurrently held to check the books, stores and equipment of the Department. These enquiries and the inevitable publicity which ensued naturally upset for a time the functioning of the prison service, but matters were returning to normal by the end of the year.

The work of the Industrial School and the Borstal Institution has been reported upon in that section of Chapter 7 which deals with Juvenile Delinquency. Reference has also been made in the same chapter to the excellent work of the Orthopaedic workshop. It would take up too much space to list all articles manufactured and repaired during 1948 by this section of the Prison Department, but it is worthy of record that the 71 prisoners engaged made among other things 486 pairs of boots and shoes, 184 calipers, 166 short walking instruments, 83 knock-knee pads, 36 Bradford frames, 76 Thomas splints, 61 spinal braces, and repaired 997 pairs of shoes and boots, 819 calipers and 254 walking instruments.

Prison statistics for the last five years are as follows:

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Total admissions	4,668	3,225	2,860	2,573	2,552
Convicted	2,596	1,153	2,028	1,973	1,943
Death sentences	—	—	6	—	1
Reprieves	—	—	3	—	1
Corporal punishment	2	2	—	—	—
Deaths, including executions	7	14	15	10	5
Escapes	53	49	15	15	8
Daily average in prison	559	550	565	517	547

Chapter X : Public Utilities and Public Works

WATER SUPPLIES

Domestic, Irrigation and Hydro-Electric

The water resources of Mauritius are mainly dependent on the incidence of cyclones which pass by near enough to bring rain. Average rainfall varies from 25 inches in the coastal belt to 150 inches in the super-humid uplands. Rainfall is heaviest in the period December to April. From May to August lighter rains, chiefly up-country, are usually sufficient to maintain the supplies gained during the wet season. In the driest part of the year, from September to November, the flow of water in the rivers dwindles to a negligible amount. It has proved necessary to construct a number of reservoirs to maintain a more stable distribution of water supplies for domestic, irrigation and hydro-electric purposes. Increased consumption on all three counts has led to a post-war development programme which includes the construction of four new reservoirs and the laying of new water mains.

The existing reservoirs are at Mare-aux-Vacoas (7 sq. miles ; 597 million cub. feet), La Ferme (6.8 sq. miles ; 46 million cub. feet) and La Nicolière (3 sq. miles ; 202 million cub. feet). Mare-aux-Vacoas supplies domestic water, and also irrigation water after it has been used for hydro-electric purposes. La Ferme and La Nicolière are used for irrigation. Work has been almost completed on a new impounding reservoir at Mare Longue (2.65 sq. miles ; 220 million cub. feet). This reservoir is to be used mainly for irrigation and hydro-electric purposes, thereby releasing Mare-aux-Vacoas water for domestic purposes. Although the work on Mare Longue has not yet been completed it was possible to supply 70 million cub. feet of water from it to the power station at Tamarin Falls. As soon as work on Mare Longue is completed the construction gangs will move some miles north to another site at Piton du Milieu to begin work on a reservoir of approximately the same size as Mare Longue. The possibility of completing the abandoned reservoir at Midlands is being considered.

All the above reservoirs are Government projects. There is also a privately owned reservoir at Tamarin for the supply of water to the power station. Extension works are in process on this reservoir.

It is considered that large underground sources of water exist and could be exploited by digging wells. Arrangements are being made to carry out a survey in this connection.

Rainfall was scanty during the first six months of 1948, but improved subsequently. The earlier shortage adversely affected the irrigation supplies from Mare-aux-Vacoas and La Ferme, but La Nicolière was able to maintain a full supply throughout the year. The partial storage at Mare Longue prevented a curtailment of supplies to Tamarin for hydro-electric purposes.

1948 saw the first improvements in domestic water distribution planned in the Development and Welfare Scheme. In the Mare-aux-Vacoas system, water from the main reservoir is conveyed to the filter beds at La Marie in a concrete conduit feeding three 16-inch pipe lines. The energy of the raw water is utilized to drive hydraulic turbines actuating centrifugal pumps which pump part of the filtered water to the residential areas of Curepipe and Floréal above the filter beds. The age of the power mains and the increased consumption had caused the pumps to reach their maximum capacity and in the dry season a partial shortage was experienced. By extending the Mare-aux-Vacoas to La Marie conduit by some 2,000 feet and removing part of the 16-inch pipes the pressure on the turbines was improved. The quantity pumped is now adequate for the present requirements.

A new 5-inch main linking the service reservoir of La Brasserie and Didier Hill in Curepipe was completed and helped to improve the situation. Pipes were received for a new distribution main for the areas of Stanley, Plaisance and Trèfles lying outside the township limits of Rose Hill and Beau Bassin which have no water supply. Approximately one mile of this new main was laid.

The higher residential areas in Moka receive a scanty supply from Mare-aux-Vacoas. Pipes for a new trunk main from Vacoas to Moka were ordered early in 1946. The first instalments have been received and it is hoped to start the laying of this main early in 1949.

The districts of the North and of Flacq, Grand Port and Savanne are to receive their supplies from a new impounding reservoir at Piton du Milieu. Shortage of experienced staff and machinery made it impossible to start this reservoir before the completion of Mare Longue reservoir (referred to above). Preliminary work will start early in 1949 and in July the whole staff from Mare Longue will be transferred to Piton du Milieu.

Meanwhile the Water Works Branch of the Public Works Department is struggling hard to maintain the existing supplies through mains which are of too small capacity and which become incrustated more and more every year. In the North, pumping from a well at La Cave had to be resorted to ; in Flacq continual cleaning of the existing mains was undertaken,

The new 300,000 gallon reinforced-concrete service reservoir at Goodlands in the North is nearing completion and will be put into commission in 1949 to store whatever water may be available from the existing system. With this in view a new 6", 5", 4" main from the existing Piton service reservoir to Goodlands is being laid and $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles or one-third of the length was completed in 1948.

PUBLIC WORKS

Buildings and Roads

Difficulties in obtaining building materials handicapped the carrying out of both maintenance and new constructions. Nevertheless, several works started in 1947 were completed this year, the more important being a dental clinic and two new wards at the Civil Hospital, Port Louis, a domestic science and handicrafts centre in Rose Hill, a residence for the Civil Commissioner (South) and the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Quatre Bornes. The extension to Plaine de Papayes Government school was started and good progress made by the end of 1948. New wards at the Civil Hospital and the Mental Hospital were also started. A limited amount of road repair and new road construction was carried out. This included the bitumen treatment of 17 miles of district roads and the partial construction of a new road from Curepipe to Quartier Militaire.

Sewerage

Dr. Hamlin, a chartered civil engineer and sewerage expert from Johannesburg, paid return visits to Mauritius in March and October, and a survey party from a South African firm was in this country from August to November, on a levelling net work of the streets and roads where it is intended to instal water-borne sewerage.

ELECTRICITY

Electricity services continued to operate under difficulties during the year, partly because of steadily increasing consumption and partly through limitations of generating equipment. The General Electric Supply Co. has pushed ahead with the installation of a new pipe line from the head of Tamarin Falls to the power station in the Gorge, but was unable to complete this work by the end of the year.

Since 1938, when the electricity tariff was substantially reduced, the number of units generated has risen from 5,173,000 to 15,500,000. Plans for the development of Tamarin station provide for a peak load of 7,500 Kw and an output of 25,000,000 units.

TELEPHONES

The number of public telephone stations increased during the year by 332, bringing the end of the year total to 3,850. An important development was the substitution of an all-island flat rate call-charge of 10 cents for the graded inter-exchange rates. During the ten year period 1938-48 the number of telephone stations has increased from 910 to 3,850. Development has now been slowed up by the shortage of exchange equipment, which it is hoped to rectify within the next six months. The telephone service was taken over by the Government of Mauritius in 1938.

BROADCASTING

The Mauritius Broadcasting Service, which forms part of the Public Relations Office, broadcasts for six hours daily in three general and one Indian-language transmissions. In an average six-day week (excluding Sundays when there are only three transmissions) news broadcasts in English, French and Hindustani occupy a total of $6\frac{1}{2}$ hours, talks and plays another $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours and musical programmes both live and recorded 24 hours. The monitoring section of the M.B.S., working on a 24-hour basis, takes down Reuters morse news and part of the London Press Service for use by the M.B.S., the local press and government departments. The staff employed at the M.B.S. totals 24.

On the technical side the station was almost completely reorganised during 1947 by the installation of a new 5 Kw. medium wave transmitter and the construction of two new studios. To complete this reorganisation orders were placed in early 1948 for new control room equipment, a gramophone recorder and spare turntables, microphones and amplifiers. Unfortunately, none of this equipment had arrived by the end of the year.

Particular attention is paid to the musical programmes of the M.B.S. and it appears that the musical taste of listeners is improving judging from the requests being now made for symphonies, concertos, operas and lieder. Every opportunity is taken of securing good recordings wherever they can be found. Talks on great composers and their works are regularly featured on the M.B.S. On an average two live musical programmes were broadcast weekly during 1948 by amateur singers, pianists or choirs. More and more records are being received from the B.B.C. Transcription Service, many of them being recordings of classical and modern masterpieces not available from the commercial gramophone companies. Now that dual-speed turntables have been installed, about 25% of the programme is devoted to these highly appreciated recordings. Request programmes continue to be one of the most popular features on the M.B.S., due to the fact that a fair number of new records of light songs have been secured. Listeners' requests now average about 400 a week.

It is hoped in the near future to assemble a little orchestra and a company of artists for regular live broadcasts.

The gramophone library now possesses over 14,000 recordings made by commercial companies (including 1,300 records of Indian music) and by the B.B.C.

Among the distinguished visitors who came to the microphone this year were the High Commissioner for France in Madagascar, M. Pierre de Chevigné, the General-President of *L'Alliance Française*, M. Georges Duhamel, two well-known French painters, M. Pierre Matosy and M. H. de Jouvancourt, and the director of the M.E.L.F. pioneer corps, Brigadier H. H. Blanchard.

An analysis of the talks broadcast during the year gives pride of place to literary subjects. Educational topics came a close second. Political broadcasts are not permitted on the M.B.S., the only exception being the objective, eye-witness accounts of Legislative Council meetings given weekly by the Public Relations Officer. Talks on behalf of government services included a new series "Departmental Activities" and numerous broadcasts on health subjects.

Radio plays presented by amateurs numbered 14 of which 6 were produced and played by members of the Mauritius Dramatic Club, the most successful being "Macbeth" and "Smash and Grab," a thriller by Norman Edwards.

The number of wireless receiving licences in force on the 3rd December, 1948, was 4,988. This represents an increase of 1,094 during the year compared to an increase of 800 in 1947. It has been easier to obtain medium priced sets on the local market but little progress has been made in securing a really cheap receiver within the means of the mass of the population. Prototype community listening sets were ordered for trial in the rural areas among the Village Councils. It is expected that community listening will be firmly established in Mauritius by the end of 1949.

Radio licencees receive free a weekly advance programme giving details of the M.B.S. general and Indian programmes and selected items from the B.B.C.'s Overseas Services. These programmes are printed by the Government Printer and distributed by the Postmaster General's department on behalf of the M.B.S.

The Broadcasting Advisory Board created in 1947 met twice during 1948. This Board is called only when major policy questions affecting the M.B.S. arise.

In the early days of 1948 two members of the M.B.S. staff left for the U.K. to follow B.B.C. training courses, and on their return the Manager of the station went on B.B.C. study leave. The throwing-open of its training courses by the B.B.C. is of

inestimable value. Without the help thus given in staff training, technical advice and by the free issue of recordings, the rate of progress in local broadcasting would have been markedly slower.

GOVERNMENT FIRE SERVICES

Prior to 1939 each local body, viz., the Municipality of Port Louis and the Boards of Commissioners for Curepipe, Quatre Bornes and Beau Bassin—Rose Hill, maintained a small fire station. Expenditure on these stations was a charge on township funds and the only revenue derived was, apparently, a percentage of the total premium cashed by Insurance Companies within township limits. The agreement with the Insurance Companies stipulated that on no account was the Brigade authorised to turn out to incidents outside these limits.

When war broke out in 1939, it soon became evident that these unconnected services were not in a position to render efficient assistance in the event of an attack. Consequently, the Controller of the Passive Air Defence Service was empowered to co-ordinate the activities of all the Brigades to ensure adequate protection to the whole island. The Municipal Brigade was reinforced by a squad of Government men. Modern equipment and appliances were ordered from the U.K. to replace the defective outfits in commission. The amalgamation of all Brigades of the Colony under Government control took effect in September 1943.

It is unnecessary to dwell on the enormous advantages which were the outcome of this amalgamation. The service itself benefitted in that it had better training and could produce up-to-date fire-fighting appliances to cope with any conflagration. The Home Authorities realised this. Just before the end of the war the Secretary of State, in a despatch to the Governor, strongly recommended that, before the several Brigades were handed back to their owners, the local Government should consider the advisability of keeping the service nationalised. The main advantages of unified control are that:

- (a) A government service can protect the whole island, whereas only certain definite regions are protected by the Boards.
- (b) Government is better placed than the local bodies to meet the cost of modernising the Brigades' equipment and bettering the service conditions of the personnel. The cost of operating this Service has, in fact, risen by more than 200% since 1943, and it is doubtful whether the Boards could maintain efficient brigades at the cost.
- (c) The districts which are still unprotected can, and will be incorporated in the service by the building of new fire stations.

(d) A single and united service is more efficient and more contented than scattered brigades.

The Municipality strongly objected to this measure and the Municipal Brigade was handed back on 30th June, 1947. This left in Government hands four fire stations, one at Mahebourg in the district of Grand Port, one in Curepipe, one in Quatre Bornes and the fourth in Rose Hill. These three are in the Plaines Wilhems District.

As each district of the island should have its own fire station so that the necessary staff and equipment can be rushed to the scene of action without delay, the other regions are to be provided with fire stations as quickly as possible.

A start is to be made by the opening of two new stations, one in Rivière du Rempart district and the other one in Savanne district.

The four existing stations are manned by 11 officers (including the Chief Officer) and 60 firemen.

The strength of the mobile appliances is as follows:

Fire Engines	...	...	...	One Merryweather, and the others lorries (Austin, Ford and Morris Commercial types) converted into fire engines.
8 Coventry Climax Trailer Pumps...				Output 350/500 gallons per minute.
5 Large Dennis Trailer Pumps	...			Output 350/450 "
1 Tiny Dennis Trailer Pump	...			Output 80/130 "
2 Cars	...	...	...	Austin and Ford types,
5 Vans	...	...	...	Bedford, Graham, Chevrolet, Buick and Fordson types.
1 Motor Cycle	...	...	...	Indian type.

It is hoped to standardise the mobile equipment and, with that in view, orders have been placed with the Crown Agents for the Colonies for immediate execution. As new stations are opened they will be supplied with one mobile pump (with an output of 350/450 gallons per minute), one Tiny Dennis trailer pump, one motor car, two bicycles and the necessary auxiliary fire fighting equipment such as stirrup pumps and fire extinguishers.

The headquarters of the executive staff is at Curepipe where repairs and maintenance of fire appliances (other than minor works which are done at their respective Stations) are undertaken by the personnel under the supervision of the Chief Officer. The conversion of a lorry, during the year under review, into a fire engine complete in every detail speaks highly in favour of Mauritian craftsmen.

The new Government service coped with many outbreaks of fire during the last twelve months. The calls were responded to with promptitude and energy, and sometimes in the same district

at very short intervals between two turn-outs. In the majority of cases the Brigade was able either to put out the conflagrations or to prevent them from spreading to neighbouring properties.

The more serious fires were at Richelieu where a tobacco barn caught fire ; on Ferney Sugar Estate where 33 cow sheds were completely destroyed and others saved ; at Grand Bay where 3 seaside bungalows caught fire but others were efficiently protected ; at Queen Distillery which was saved from complete destruction ; great damage to Mon Désert Sugar Estate factory was avoided by prompt action in quenching the flames which were endangering its boilers and the factory itself.

The fire services responded also to other calls for assistance. More than once pumping was effected at Mahebourg Railway Station. Valuable assistance was rendered by members of the Rose Hill and Curepipe Fire Stations in the rescue of three men trapped in the middle of Grand River North West when it overflowed on the 31st January, 1948.

Members of the fire services may be called upon to apply first aid treatment on the spot and assist in loading ambulances. For this reason they follow courses in first aid for the award of St. John's Ambulance Certificate.

A fire drill exhibition was held this year. The results of the tests were excellent considering the short period during which the Brigade has been in training.

The concentration of population in towns and villages, the erection of more and more houses, business and trade premises, adequate protection to be afforded to factories, docks, warehouses, hospitals, picture houses, etc., and the possibility of air raid attacks in the event of a war, all these call for more and more protection against fire. If the Colony is to keep pace with the changing times, its Fire Services must be developed into an efficient, contented, and harmoniously working organisation covering all the districts of the Island.

Chapter XI : Communications

SHIPPING

During the financial year ending the 30th June, 1948 192 vessels amounting to 574,995 net register tons of shipping entered Port Louis harbour, an increase of 15 vessels or 85,000 net register tons over the preceding year. Of these 192 vessels, ships registered in the Colony entered 45 times, twelve non-commercial vessels called, and 135 merchant vessels, three of which called for bunker fuel only.

The largest vessel berthed inside the harbour was the Transport *Ascanius* of 6,242 net tons, and the longest vessel *S/S City of Dieppe*, of 520 feet over-all length. The deepest draft of any vessel entering was 29 feet 6 ins.

During 1947-48, pilotage, towage, light dues and anchorage dues amounting to Rs. 506,862 were levied on shipping, not including revenue from quay operations. This figure shows an increase of Rs. 140,114 over the preceding period 1946-47.

Shipping services, which were seriously dislocated during the war, are gradually returning to normal, except that passenger liners are not yet being operated on regular schedules. The fast French mail boats which used to make about two calls a month at Port Louis have not resumed their prewar service and are now infrequent callers. Cargo vessel services from Australia are fairly regular but passenger opportunities to and from Australia are rare. The irregularity of passenger shipping services is causing travellers, both official and private, to make increasing use of the Colony's air services.

RAILWAYS

The sugar crop this year again exceeded all records, sugar production being in the neighbourhood of 392,000 metric tons. The difficulties experienced in transporting such a crop in about 125 days can be properly appreciated only by remembering the outworn condition of the locos and the quasi-impossibility of obtaining boilers, spares and other materials.

The net results of the working of the Railways still show a heavy loss on account of further increases in the cost of labour and materials, which have not been compensated by the additional revenue earned. Furthermore, the number of passenger journeys showed a diminution of some 1,335,000 trips for the year.

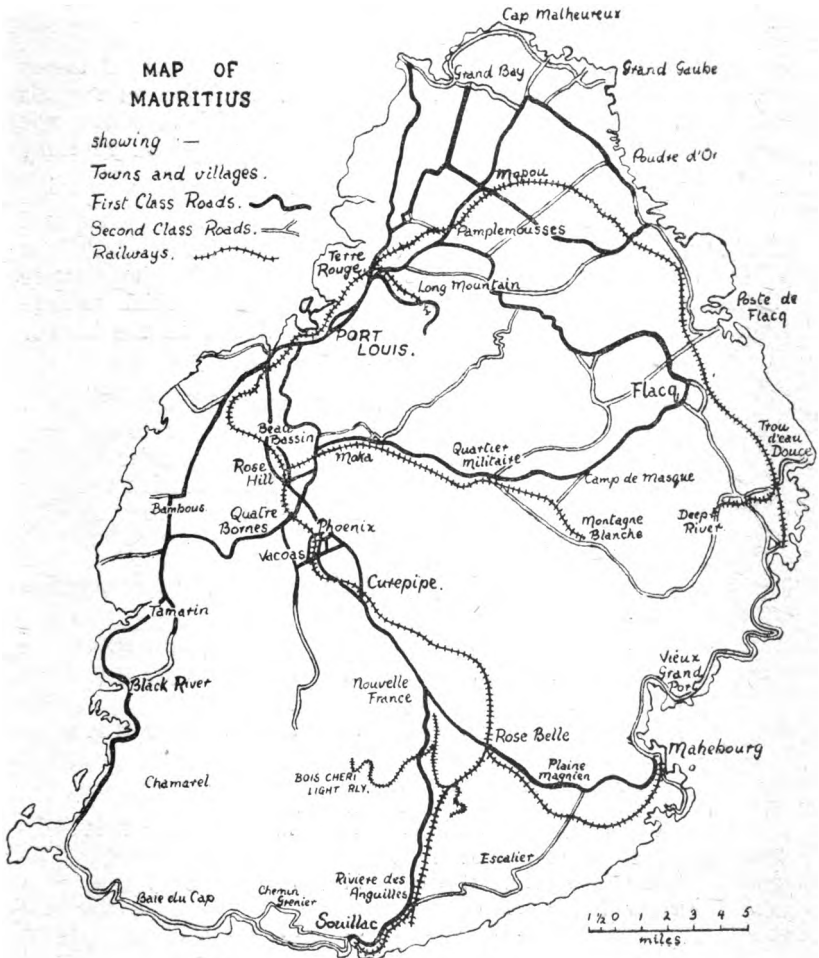
A short bus strike resulted in the Railways running more passenger trains to prevent a dislocation in the economic life of the community.

Six members of the Railway staff qualified as members of the local branch of the St. John's Ambulance Association and the policy of the Department is to encourage as many of its staff as possible to join this Association.

Terracine and St. Aubin Sugar Factories have centralised on Union Ducray ; Alma Factory closed down and milling operations took place at Mon Désert (St. Pierre). Beau Séjour centralised on Mon Loisir. This policy of centralising sugar factories may affect certain railway lines in the future and major road improvements may have to wait until all possible centralisations are over in a particular area.

ROADS

Mauritius possesses what is on the whole a very satisfactory road system. There are 750 miles of public roads, one-third of which are bitumen treated and the rest metalled. There is, however, room for improvement, as many of these roads are too narrow for fast moving transport to travel in safety. Blind corners are numerous owing to the prevalence of high growing sugarcane on each side of the roads ; towns and villages are populous and close together. The roads are further congested by slow moving goods transport vehicles and by numerous buses.



PASSENGER ROAD TRANSPORT

At the end of the year there were 3,777 motor vehicles in use in the island, compared with 3,107 in 1939, classified as follows:

			1939	1948
Private cars	...	...	1,939	2,226
Lorries	...	...	427	704
Taxi cars	...	...	387	458
Buses	...	...	135	183
Motor cycles	...	...	219	205

In addition, 208 vehicles of all types were Government owned in 1948.

Taxi cars for hire in Port Louis and in the principal towns are of modern type and kept in excellent condition as regards safety and cleanliness. The charges for hire (which may be made by telephone) are 35 cents per mile during the day and 40 cents during the night.

There is a good bus service between Port Louis, Vacoas and Curepipe, calling at the intermediary principal towns of Plaines Wilhems, and many satisfactory subsidiary lines of less importance (there are 31 approved bus routes in the Colony) which radiate from the main system to every town and village in the island. The fares are approximately at the rate of 3 cents per mile.

Lorries are used for the transport of imported foodstuffs from Port Louis, the only commercial harbour, to other towns and villages, for the transport of sugarcane to the factories and of all other goods produced in the Colony with the exception of sugar which, with heavy goods and imported fertilizers, is compulsorily effected by the Railway.

The annual licence duties payable in respect of motor vehicles are as follows:

- (i) Motor cycles Rs. 4 per H.P.
- (ii) Private cars Rs. 6 per H.P.
- (iii) (a) Taxi cars not exceeding 10 H.P. ... Rs. 88
- (b) for every additional H.P. ... Rs. 6 per H.P.
- (iv) (a) Motor buses having a seating capacity
for not more than 21 passengers, and
of not more than 10 H.P. Rs. 492
- (b) for every additional H.P. Rs. 6 per H.P.
- (v) (a) Motor lorries not exceeding 10 H.P. ... Rs. 180
- (b) for every additional H.P. Rs. 6 per H.P.
- (c) per metric ton of maximum gross
weight or fraction thereof Rs. 40.

Persons visiting the Colony pay the same rate, but licence duties may be paid quarterly at proportionate rates.

Petrol is rationed, a basic allowance of 8 gallons being allowed for each private car monthly. The retail price of petrol at present is about Rs. 10 per four gallon tin, equivalent to about 3 shs. 9d. a gallon.

AIR

During the recent war an important step was taken towards improving the communications of Mauritius with the outside world. An aerodrome was built by the Admiralty at Plaisance, 3 miles west of Mahebourg in the south-east of the island. The aerodrome is, according to the testimony of the pilots and other air experts who have visited Mauritius, one of the best in the Indian ocean region. It has an all-weather concrete, non-skid runway, 2,000 by 50 yards and taxiways capable of taking aircraft weighing up to 90,000 lbs. This runway is in the same direction as the prevailing winds. Only in exceptional weather conditions are crosswinds experienced and they are usually very light, except in pre or post cyclonic weather. As the aerodrome had been built for Military/Naval use, no facilities were provided for Civil Aviation needs, i.e., terminal building, customs, accommodation for passengers and visitors, restaurants, etc.

When the R.A.F. left Mauritius the aerodrome was run temporarily by the Mauritius Volunteer Air Force until the 1st of July, 1947, when a new Government department was formed to take charge of the management and control of air traffic in Mauritius. The best possible use was made of the existing buildings, and they proved satisfactory enough so long as only one aircraft (Air France) called at Plaisance weekly. At the beginning of 1948, a British airline, Skyways (E.A.) Ltd. commenced a weekly service between Mauritius and Nairobi with connections to Europe by B.O.A.C. In May 1948, Skyways Ltd. inaugurated a fortnightly service to Johannesburg and it is possible that in the near future this airline will start a bi-weekly service between Mauritius and Réunion. On 13th March, 1948, Suidair International Airways started an irregular monthly air service between Mauritius and Johannesburg. In addition to these services there were several non-scheduled flights of interest, the more important being a Silver City Airways plane from Ceylon to Johannesburg *via* Mauritius, S.A.B.E.N.A. (Airways) from Paris and a most important testing flight carried out by Qantas Empire Airways flying between Australia and Johannesburg and back *via* the Cocos Islands and Mauritius. This increase in air traffic is causing difficulties to the Health, Police, and Customs Officials, as well as to the air passengers. It is hoped that a modern Terminal building will be erected in the near future to meet this need.

The Civil Aviation Department has its own signals section which deals solely with service and meteorological messages. Regular contact is established daily with Réunion, Madagascar, Nairobi, St. Brandon, Agaléga and Diégo Garcia. Fortnightly communications are made with Johannesburg in connection with the Skyways and Suidair flights. For navigational purposes, the department is equipped with an M/F beacon and H/F. D/F.

Aircraft Accidents

During 1948, only one accident was experienced. A Skyways Rapide aircraft landed safely at Mont Choisy Emergency Landing ground, but due to bad functioning of the brakes, the aircraft collided with a car and had a wing damaged. No casualties were experienced.

Tourist Industry

Quite a number of Mauritians travel by air to spend their holidays at (Cilaos) Réunion, and (Antsirabé) Madagascar. The incoming tourists have been very few. This is mainly due to the lack of suitable accommodation on the Island.

Passenger and goods movements

During 1948 incoming passengers totalled 1769 and outgoing 1667. The weight of mail and freight carried was respectively incoming 11,257 kilos and 13,087 kilos, outgoing 5,885 and 5,038 kilos. These figures exclude freight in transit.

Other landing facilities

In addition to the main airport at Plaisance, there is an emergency aerodrome at Mont Choisy in the north-west of the island, and a marine airport at Grand Port, a few miles away from Plaisance.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

Revenue

The steady post war resumption of trade is reflected in the substantial increase in the activities of all branches of the Post Office during the year under review. The total revenue for the year has been Rs. 1,450,000 as compared with Rs. 663,476 for 1947.

A striking instance of the growth of the postal traffic is supplied by the large stamp sales which amounted to Rs. 1,329,044 against Rs. 644,848 for 1947, and by a 100% increase over the number of private boxes rented in 1947. Though purchases by stamp dealers and collectors account for a fair percentage of the stamps sales, the main increase is mainly in the use of stamps for postal purposes.

In contrast to the increases in the postage rates of many other Colonies those of Mauritius have remained very low, a fact to which the Swinden Commission has drawn attention.

Special Issues

The *Post Office* Centenary Commemorative stamps, which were due for issue on the 21st of September, 1947, could only be put sale on the 22nd of March, 1948, owing to unavoidable circumstances. On the first day of issue of these stamps there was a record sale amounting to Rs. 102,063.50. The Silver Wedding stamps were put on sale on the 25th October, 1948. In view of the propaganda made by stamp dealers in the United Kingdom against the ten-rupee denomination, it was thought wise to order a small stock of that value. The contrary of what was expected happened. There was such a rush for that particular stamp that within an hour the whole stock was sold. Another supply received from the Crown Agents some time later was exhausted in a few hours. A third supply has since been received and will be on sale up to the 24th January, 1949.

Offices

Postal Agencies were opened in 1948 at the Eastern and Western Suburbs in Port Louis ; at Stanley, Rose Hill ; at Belle Rose, Quatre Bornes, and at St. Paul, Phoenix. These localities are thickly populated and are over a mile away from the nearest post office. The Port Louis Centre Post Office, which had been closed down in 1943, was reopened on the 8th of December, 1948. At the close of the year the number of post offices was 37 and that of postal agencies 38.

Airmail

The weekly air service by " Air France " has expanded into a bi-weekly service since February last when Skyways Limited started a once-a-week run to and from Nairobi. In addition the latter have been making a return trip to and from Johannesburg on alternate weeks. The advent of Skyways Limited has greatly improved the frequency of the air mail service. Conveyance charges to Nairobi have been reduced from 25 gold francs to 20.88 gold francs per kilogramme. Regulations amending the postage rates extending the light air letter service to Commonwealth countries and to several foreign countries will soon come into force. It is hoped to introduce appropriately low rates for the transport by air of second class mail, i.e., printed papers, etc. A parcel post service by air is also contemplated.

Surface Mail

No opportunity was missed for the despatch of mails by sea. Nevertheless, delay in transmission by steamers was inevitable owing to the absence of frequent and regular sailings.

There has been a steady increase in the transactions of money order and postal order business, particularly in telegraphic transfers with Rodriguez and in remittances from members of His Majesty's Forces serving overseas.

Inland Telegraph

Unlike the postal service, which has expanded considerably, the inland telegraph service has remained stationary and even suffered a set-back. This check to progress is due to shortages of equipment and materials. On the other hand, the traffic of overseas telegrams and cablegrams shows a substantial increase.

District Work

The working conditions of postal officers sent out on relief duty to distant and unhealthy localities have been improved. The rate of commuted subsistence allowance payable to them has been raised from Rs. 20 p.m. to Rs. 30 p.m. Arrangements are being made to provide them with a folding camp bedstead, a mosquito net, a sheet and a blanket.

A scheme for a Mobile Postal Service is under consideration. This would cater for the needs of localities where the number of inhabitants does not justify the opening of a postal agency and would remove the hardship under which dozens of hamlets are labouring owing to their remoteness from a post office.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Overseas telecommunications are maintained by the Port Louis office of Cable and Wireless Ltd. The company has another cable station in the principal dependency of the Colony, Rodriguez. Arrangements have been made to connect this latter station by an improved wireless link to Mauritius.

The Government of Mauritius operates a wireless coast station which can transmit within a limited range to ships equipped with radio apparatus.

Radio telegrams may be handed in at any Telegraph office on the island for transmission.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

The reissue of publications suspended during the war, the expansion of departmental activities and the heavy printing required in connection with the General Elections made 1948 an exceptionally busy year for the Government Printing Office. Fortunately, paper stocks were adequate to meet these calls, as the importation of paper and other printing materials continued to be spasmodic and unsatisfactory.

An indication of the work done may be gained from the following figures, many of which are the highest so far recorded :

Total impressions...	...	...	18,757,648
Miscellaneous binding works	...	...	20,240,823
Books wire-stitched and covered	...	...	119,457
Foolscap folios	} set and printed...	{	4,340
Royal 8 vo			6,116
General jobs			2,779
No. of volumes bound	...	...	9,772
Government gazettes published	...	...	101

Chapter XII : Cultural and Scientific Organisations

THE MAURITIUS INSTITUTE

The project for the foundation of an Institute in Mauritius first took shape in 1880 when an ordinance was passed with the active support of the Governor, Sir George Bowen, "to establish and incorporate a Public Institute, a Public Museum and a Public Library, for the purpose of promoting the general study and cultivation of the various branches and departments of Art, Science, Literature and Philosophy, and for the instruction and recreation of the people."

The first stone of the present building was laid by Sir George Bowen on the 23rd November, 1880 and the natural history collections bequethed to the Colony by Julien Desjardins were transferred to the new building from the old Royal College in 1885. The Public Library was opened in 1903 following the munificent bequest of the Sir Virgile Naz library which forms the nucleus of the present collections.

To-day, the Institute comprises a Public Library, a Natural History Museum and an Art Gallery ; in addition the following Scientific Societies are incorporated with the Institute: *Royal Society of Arts and Sciences*, the *Société des Chimistes et des Techniciens des Industries Agricoles* and the *Société Médicale*.

The administration of the Institute is assisted by a Board of Directors appointed annually by the Governor and including three members appointed on the recommendation of the incorporated societies. A library committee and a museum committee are set up each year to manage the affairs of the Library and Museum respectively.

The Museum is open daily to the public except on Sundays and public holidays, admission free from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is visited during the course of the year by over 70,000 people.

The Public Library

The stock comprises more than 32,000 volumes about equally divided between French and English. The library has a large and valuable collection of Mauritian and a reference section on the natural history of the Mascarene Islands and neighbouring regions. More than seventy-five periodicals are received annually. The library is free to readers, but a deposit of Rs. 10 is required from borrowers. The valuable support of the British Council has resulted in important accessions to the library from time to time and it is owing to the Council's generosity that it has been possible to make much-needed additions to the periodicals, both technical general.

The Natural History Museum

This museum is local in character and every effort is being made to assemble as complete material as possible of the fauna and flora of the Mascarene Islands and the surrounding ocean. A reserve collection is being gradually built up for research workers. The exhibited sections are being devised on educational and ecological principles.

In the avian section there are two skeletons of the Dodo, one of the Solitaire from Rodriguez, and one of the flightless Red Hen (*Aphanapteryx*), as well as a complete collection of the endemic birds of Mauritius, including the extinct Dutch Pigeon (*Alectroenas nitidissima*).

A special case is devoted to the fauna of Round Island, a small islet 12 miles north of Mauritius.

There are now on view advanced collections of *crustacea*, *echinodermata* and *mollusca*, both land and marine. A collection of tropical fish, many painted in their natural colours, is also of interest.

The botanical section includes a herbarium of over 4,000 sheets of specimens from Mauritius, Rodriguez and some of the smaller Indian Ocean islands. Native and exotic timber specimens are displayed and a special section is devoted to diseases and pests of economic plants.

Maritime and Historical Museum

A subsidiary museum also related to local events has been arranged in the historic house at Mahebourg where the two wounded commanders of the British and French navies were received during the naval battle of Grand Port in 1810. This museum will be opened to visitors shortly.

Research

The richness and variety of marine life in the surrounding seas together with the very interesting remnants of the indigenous land fauna and flora present excellent opportunities for research in pure, economic and marine biology, and the collections of the museum form a valuable basis for investigation in these fields.

In recent years research work in conjunction with institutions and workers overseas has continued to develop, mainly on marine and land mollusca, crustaceans, insects and reptiles ; investigations on the systematics and ecology of the vegetation of Mauritius are in progress.

Publications

The Mauritius Institute publishes an annual report and a Bulletin devoted to original papers on the fauna and flora of the Mascarenes region to which many experts working in Institutions overseas have contributed. The first part was published in 1936 and part I of the third volume is in press. Copies of the parts still in print may be obtained on application to the Director, Mauritius Institute,, Port Louis.

SOCIETIES INCORPORATED WITH THE MAURITIUS INSTITUTE

(1) *The Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius*. This Society, which was founded in 1829 under the title of *Société d'Histoire Naturelle*, was honoured with a Royal Charter in 1846. Its activities extend to most branches of natural history ; science and art lectures are delivered by its members and also by visitors of mark under its auspices. A catalogue of the library which contains many rare and valuable books on natural history was published in 1945. Annual Transactions are published containing the proceedings and papers read before the Society.

(2) *Société Médicale de l'Ile Maurice*. The Society was founded in 1880 and includes among its members most of the medical practitioners of the Colony.

(3) *Société des Chimistes et des Techniciens des Industries Agricoles*. Formerly known as the *Société des Chimistes*, the Society has been recently re-organised and broadened by the inclusion of all engineers and technicians engaged in the sugar industry.

The Society is a technical body studying all questions relating to the growth of sugarcane and the manufacture of cane-sugar. The papers and proceedings of the Society are published in the bi-monthly *Revue Agricole*.

THE MAURITIUS ARCHIVES

The Mauritius Archives Office is not only one of the oldest departments of this colony, dating, in point of fact, from the early years of the French settlement, but also one of the oldest archive centres of the Southern Hemisphere, ranking only after the Cape and Réunion repositories.

Under French rule the Office was a branch of the *Conseil Supérieur* and received special attention from the authorities. An early instance of the interest of the French government in colonial archives is provided by the edict of 1776 which set up a central *Dépot des Chartes des Colonies* at Versailles and enacted regulations for their better preservation. Another important measure was the establishment here in 1808 of a *Dépot des cartes de la marine* which for a long time supplied sailors and travellers in the South Indian Ocean with valuable information.

At the time of the British conquest the local archives were removed from Port Louis to a safer place of custody in Plaines Wilhems and thus escaped damage. In 1815, after the final cession of Mauritius to England, they were handed over to the British authorities in an almost complete state, comparatively few of the records being retained by the French government.

From 1815 to 1831 a competent person, the Baron d'Unienville, had charge of the archives and made good use of his material in compiling the first historical and statistical account of Mauritius, a compilation which is still a standard work of reference on local history.

When he died, the office of Archivist was injudiciously abolished and the archives were committed to the custody of a clerk as the Mauritius government was then following a policy of strict retrenchment. This unsatisfactory state of affairs lasted for over forty years and had disastrous results. Disorder and confusion soon set in, searches became tedious and uncertain, valuable plans and title-deeds disappeared and a great deal of litigation followed, to the detriment not only of government but also of private parties.

In 1861 a special commission was appointed to investigate the position. It recommended an extensive weeding-out of the mass of records which had kept on accumulating with the development of the administrative machine and the transfer of what remained to the custody of the Conservator of Mortgages. This took place in 1873. But even so it was found impossible to restore order to

the archives with a part-time staff and in 1893 the Archives Office was re-established as a special department, not, however, before suffering two more weedings-out which caused further damage to the records.

From 1893 onwards a determined attempt has been made to rebuild the Office as a national storehouse of basic material on local history and to make its contents more fully available to the public than they had previously been.

Since 1922 the Archives have been attached to the Registrar General's Department. The restoration of the autonomy of the Archives is again under consideration.

The Archives Office to-day is divided into the following sections:

Administrative section including two distinct record groups: (1) those of the old French administration dating from 1721, of which the most valuable are those of the republican Colonial Assemblies (1790-1803) and those relative to naval history, (2) those of the British administration from 1810 to 1860; these include the Secretariat files and the records of a few departments. It is proposed to take over all departmental records down to 1902, to which date public access to official records was extended recently by the Secretary of State, but this cannot be done until an extension of accommodation is provided.

Domainial or Land Section including the archives of the former Land Court (1767-1832), applications for grants of land, title-deeds of concessions and their grants of land, shooting and fishing leases, documents concerning Crown Lands, mountain reserves, canals and rivers, notarial deeds, and memoranda of survey drawn up by land-surveyors. The last two are deposited under ordinances dating from the 18th century. Most of the records in this section date from the early years of the French settlement in Mauritius.

Judicial section including (1) records of the old French courts of which there are quite a number, (2) those of the British courts which replaced them after 1810. These records are of great interest to the lawyer and the student of history.

Civil-status section including duplicate civil-status registers for Port Louis from 1721 onwards and for the rural districts from 1721 to 1830. The original registers for Port Louis are kept in the Central Civil-Status Office and those for the rural districts of later date than 1830 in the district Magistracies. This section also includes documents relative to slaves previous to the abolition of slavery, registers of marriages of Indian immigrants and census returns.

Printed records section including five classes of printed matter (1) government publications, (2) copies of all books and periodicals printed in Mauritius, regularly deposited in the Archives Office since 1893, (3) files of local newspapers from 1837 onwards, (4) a collection of early Mauritian imprints issued between 1768 and 1810, (5) a small reference library which is as yet in the growing stage. The set of government publications is probably the most important of its kind in Mauritius; so is the collection of newspapers. The collection of early imprints, which was started quite recently, is unique and of great import from the historical as well as from the bibliographical point of view.

Cartographic section including maps, plans and diagrams either deposited under existing ordinances or transferred from the Survey Office, the Military Department and other departments. Of the old *Dépot des cartes de la marine* little is left now, unfortunately. This section seems, indeed, to have suffered most from the anarchy of 1831-1873, and it is only recently that a qualified officer was appointed to take care of it.

Photographic section, which is a quite recent addition. It includes a modern photostat equipment which is used for (1) making replicas for permanent preservation of documents which are beyond repair, (2) making copies for official use by other departments; (3) supplying copies to the public, (4) building up a collection of pictorial records, (5) running an exchange service with archival centres elsewhere.

THE ROYAL ALFRED OBSERVATORY

The Royal Alfred Observatory is situated at an altitude of 178 feet about three miles from the west coast in the northern plain. The various buildings stand in eleven acres of Crown Land. The Observatory is equipped as a first-order meteorological and magnetic station. Recording of atmospheric electrical potential was discontinued in 1941 when ten years' records had been obtained. It is not proposed to resume recording for the time being.

The administrative and forecasting centre of the Observatory Department and a second-order meteorological station are situated at Vacoas 1393 feet above mean sea level. In addition, observations are received from a third-order station at the Nursery Gardens, Curepipe, and rainfalls returns from about 85 places in the Island. Arrangements were made in December for nearly all the rainfall stations in the Island to submit their returns to the Observatory. This will bring the number up to about 150.

A second-order weather reporting station is maintained in the island of Rodriguez at 140 feet above mean sea level. The weather reporting station at Diégo Garcia, which was reopened in February 1947, was in operation throughout the year.

During the course of the year it became necessary to extend the daily weather maps to cover, as far as possible, the whole of the Indian Ocean north of latitude 50 S. For this purpose arrangements were made for the reception of collective messages from India, Batavia and Australia in addition to the reports already being received from the dependencies, Réunion, Madagascar, South Africa, Portuguese East Africa and British East Africa. On an average, about 300 reports a month from ships were also received.

Meteorological reports are transmitted by wireless for the use of ships and the meteorological services of other countries. Cyclone warnings for local use are issued when necessary, in accordance with Government regulations.

The Observatory administers the meteorological station at Plaisance Aerodrome and the meteorological and wireless stations at St. Brandon and Agalega. Plans are in hand to take over and improve these stations, to change the part-time stations at Diego Garcia and Rodriguez to full-time ones and to reorganise and extend the meteorological work of the Department. This has become essential in order that the co-operation with other services and meteorological security for aircraft may be brought up to the recognised international standard.

The work undertaken on behalf of aircraft has increased very considerably. Details of the extension of air services in Mauritius have been given in Chapter 11.

From April to October a summary of the weather during the week is despatched every week to the Director-General of India Observatories in connection with monsoon predictions. Occasional telegrams are sent to the Directors of the Rhodesian and the Netherlands East Indies Meteorological Services, for their long-range rainfall forecasts. The number of requests for information locally and from abroad has been exceptionally large.

Preparations were made for the introduction of the new international meteorological code on 1st January, 1949. Copies of this code have been made available to all ships requiring it.

HISTORICAL, LITERARY AND CULTURAL SOCIETIES

Société de l'Histoire de l'Île Maurice. This Society was founded in 1938 to foster and encourage the study of the Colony's history by collecting documents on local history, publishing historical works, and organising historical exhibitions and lectures.

One of the principal activities of the Society has been the production of the Dictionary of Mauritian Biography, twenty-one parts of which have already appeared. These contain eight hundred and sixty-one biographies of persons connected with Mauritius by birth or residence.

The Society awards prizes in the schools to encourage the study of Mauritian history. It corresponds and exchanges publications with similar institutions overseas and collects material from the Archives at the Cape, The Hague, Batavia, Paris, London and Lisbon.

In 1933 the Society took part in the Adrien d'Épinay Centenary Celebrations; in 1942 a monument was erected by it to commemorate the explorer Mathew Flinders who had been a prisoner for seven years in Mauritius. In 1944 it organised a Paul and Virginia bi-centenary exhibition in the Mauritius Institute.

La Société des Écrivains Mauriciens. The Society was founded in 1938 with the objects of encouraging the publication of literary works, establishing contact with similar institutions overseas, and maintaining unity among Mauritian writers.

The Society has participated in several conferences both in Mauritius and overseas.

Encouragement is given to young authors by the award of prizes and by assisting the publication of their works.

Le Cercle Littéraire de Port Louis. Le Cercle Littéraire originated as an association called Hidoceana Verdatolo, the object of which was to promote the study of Esperanto in Mauritius. Later it became a literary society and in July, 1917, assumed the title by which it is known to-day.

The principal object of the Society is to unite all those interested in French culture and ideals. Its principal aim is to encourage among the Mauritian people the study and diffusion of the French language and literature, by means of annual competitions and public lectures. A review, *L'Essor*, is published by this Society.

Alliance Française. The local branch of the Alliance Française in Port Louis, Mauritius, was founded in 1884 with the object of fostering French culture by the introduction of French courses in schools, conducting annual examinations and organising meetings and conferences on French literature and art.

The visit of Mr. Georges Duhamel from the 30th January to the 8th February, 1948, was a brilliant success. A series of lectures given by the French academician was followed with keen interest by crowded houses, and on the radio by those who were unable to obtain admittance to the theatre.

The Mauritius Dramatic Club. Since the middle of 1946 there has been a marked revival of amateur dramatic activities in Mauritius, due mainly to the fortunate chance of having among the English community a number of people experienced in acting, stage management and the presentation of plays. The Mauritius Dramatic Club, founded 50 years ago and which had been active in pre-war days, virtually ceased to exist during the war years. Its revival two years ago has given a lot of pleasure to both the players and the large public which supports it. Seven plays were staged during 1948, nine play-readings were held for members, and the sub-committee for broadcasting presented six plays from the studios of the M.B.S. Towards the end of the year the Club branched out in a new direction by undertaking the production of "Aladdin," the first pantomime to be staged in Mauritius.

The Mauritius Muslim Youth Brigade. Founded in 1939 under the patronage of His Eminence Maulana Abdul Aleem Siddiqui, the Mauritius Muslim Youth Brigade is one of the most active youth organisations in the Colony and young Muslims of all classes are encouraged to join the movement.

The Brigade organises lectures, debates and sports, and an annual bulletin is published. In 1946 the Brigade was visited by a representative of the Muslim Youth Majlis of India to which it is affiliated.

The Vacoas House of Debaters. This Association is a literary society which takes special interest in youth education and has started a scholarship fund, authorised by Government, to assist pupils of the Royal College and Royal College School.

Fortnightly meetings are held for lectures, debates and plays, and occasional radio programmes are presented on the Mauritius Broadcasting Service.

The Indian League of Mauritius. The Indian League of Mauritius was founded under the name of the Indian Students Association. The principal objects of the League are to foster friendship and brotherhood among its members and to work for the social betterment of the Indian community. The League organises debates, lectures and sports, publishes a quarterly magazine, and gives plays in English, French and Hindustani.

The Mental and Physical Culture Association. The principal aims of this Association are to encourage the study of English language and literature and to assist its members in obtaining facilities for enjoying sports such as tennis and football.

The Hindi Pracharini Sadha and the Mauritius Hindi Parishad. These societies were established with the object of promoting and encouraging the study of Hindi in schools. Efforts are being made by the managing committees to produce a uniform curriculum and to improve the standard of teaching. Collaboration with the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan of Allahabad is maintained for conducting external examinations in Higher Hindi in Mauritius.

British Medical Association, Mauritius Branch. A branch of the British Medical Association was founded in 1939. Of the 75 registered practitioners in the Colony, 42 are now members of the local branch. Membership is granted to all medical practitioners who have qualified for registration in Mauritius, including those with French qualifications. The Branch is thus representative of the medical profession in the island. Close collaboration is maintained between Government and the profession, and the advice of the Branch has been frequently sought by Government in connection with Development and Welfare and other needs of the community.

PART III

Chapter I : Geography and Climate

GEOGRAPHY

Mauritius is a small island of about 720 square miles situated in the Indian Ocean, between $19^{\circ}58'$ and $20^{\circ}32'$ South Latitude, and the meridians of $57^{\circ}17'$ and $57^{\circ}46'$ East Longitude. It is almost surrounded by fringing reef. The northern part of the island is a fairly flat plain which rises gently towards the Central Plateau. Elsewhere the coastal plain is narrow, and the ascent to the central plateau abrupt. Bordering the central plateau there are three main mountain ranges with rocky peaks, the highest of which is 2,711 feet. Apart from these ranges, there are many other isolated hills and peaks. There are numerous small rivers throughout the island, the longest being about 25 miles. Most of the rivers are short and fast-flowing owing to the steepness of the slope from the central plateau to the sea. Waterfalls are not uncommon in Mauritius, and some of the larger have been harnessed to supply hydro-electric power. There are only two natural lakes in Mauritius, Grand Bassin and Bassin Blanc. Three reservoirs supply water for domestic use, irrigation and hydro-electric purposes. A fourth has almost been completed and work on a fifth will begin in the middle of 1949.

Mauritius is one of the most thickly populated places in the world. Its 720 square miles carry a population of 447,000, i.e., about 620 inhabitants per square mile—a staggering figure for an agricultural country. The district of Plaines Wilhems, in the central plateau, has a population density of 1,500 to the square mile.

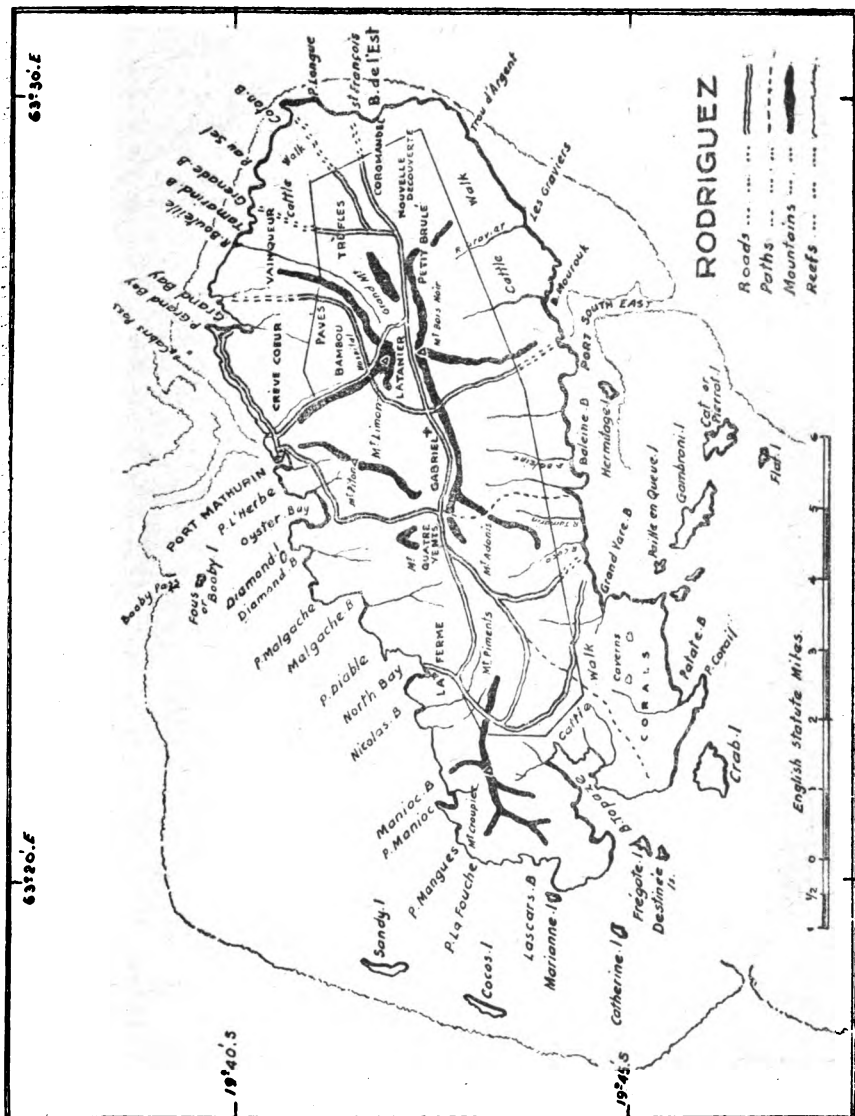
The chief industry of the island is sugar production. Sugar-cane-fields may be seen all over the island. From the hill tops the ground looks like an immense green lawn regularly intersected by silver-grey ribbons of roads. There are small areas of indigenous forests but large plantations of pine are made by the Forest Department to supply wood to factories and to provide timber for building purposes. All round the coast there is a fringe of either casuarina ("filaos") or coconut trees.

Mauritius is well supplied with road communications. Travelling even to the remotest part of the island is comparatively easy. There is a railway service operating 164 miles of main and secondary lines and numerous bus services.

The Colony, being almost in the centre of the Indian Ocean, is a comparatively isolated place. Strategically, it is, however, situated almost at the crossing of the sea routes linking Australia, India and the East Indies with South Africa. Before the war, steamers en route from the Far East to South Africa called regularly at Mauritius as did the French ships bound for the neighbouring French colony of Réunion so that there was also a regular service with East African ports. During the war a modern air port was built at Plaisance in the southern part of the island. There are at present air services linking Mauritius with Johannesburg, Nairobi and Paris. Survey flights in connection with a trans-ocean air service between South Africa and Australia *via* Mauritius were carried out in 1948.

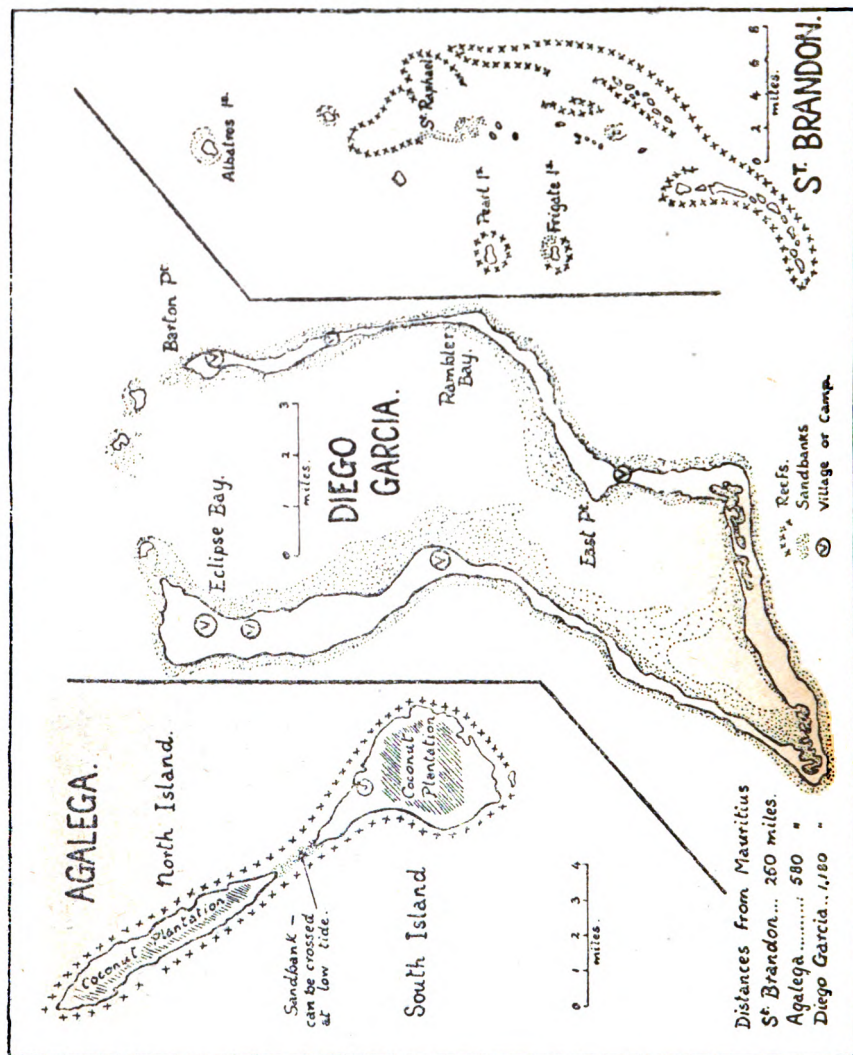
The Colony of Mauritius has a number of island dependencies scattered over the Indian Ocean. These are Rodriguez 350 miles to the east, Chagos Archipelago 1,180 miles north-east in the direction of Ceylon, Agalega 580 miles and Cargados Carajos 250 miles north of Mauritius.

Rodriguez, the principal dependency is a volcanic mountain mass surrounded by a coral reef. This small island, $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles long by $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles broad, carries a population of over 13,000 fishermen and small cultivators. Soil erosion in Rodriguez is causing the authorities some anxiety and



efforts are being made to encourage contour planting and the development of co-operative societies which will inculcate better methods of agriculture. Rodriguez is under the charge of a resident Magistrate, aided by officers of the police, health and agricultural departments.

Chagos consists of five groups of coral islands the biggest of which is Diégo Garcia. This horseshoe ribbon of land lying just above sea-level surrounds a lagoon thirteen miles long and between four and five miles wide. Diégo was of strategic importance during the recent world war.



Agalega really consists of two small islands separated by a narrow strip of sandbank. This dependency is the main source of copra for the edible oil industry of Mauritius.

Cargodos Carajos, usually referred to by the name of principal islet, St. Brandon, is a fishing station leased to a Mauritian company. At present the fish taken in the waters of Saint Brandon are dried and salted for export to Mauritius.

CLIMATE

Mauritius lies just within the tropics, but it is a small land mass without any large land area in its vicinity. It has therefore a maritime climate, tropical-maritime during summer and sub-tropical in winter. This differs appreciably from the climate of a place on the same latitude in a large continent. Very high temperatures are not experienced in summer nor particularly low ones in winter and, except in localities at or near sea-level and during occasional dry spells, rainfall is sufficient to maintain a green cover of vegetation throughout the year. On the other hand, owing to the high relative humidity, there are periods in summer, particularly when there is little or no wind, when considerable physical discomfort is felt, especially at or near sea-level, even though the temperatures are not exremely high. On the central plateau, which is between 1,000 and 2,000 feet above sea-level, it is comparatively cool almost all the year round. Heavy rains fall in summer, though there is no regular rainy season. In winter, it is cold and wet in the higher parts but cool round the coast. During this period there is a general exodus to the seaside. The bathing beaches with their white coral sand and calm, safe lagoons for bathing, fishing, swimming and boating are really beautiful and have been favourably compared by travellers with the well-known tourist resorts of Hawaii and other Pacific Islands.

The island is in the cyclonic region of the Indian Ocean, and the cyclone season, which coincides with the summer season, begin in November and ends in May. These cyclones often cause damage to plantations and buildings, but equally often are beneficial to the cane-fields because of the rain they bring. Cyclones are occasionally very severe, causing widespread destruction to crops, trees and buildings, and sometimes loss of life. Fortunately, visitations of this catastrophic nature are relatively infrequent.

The following is a summary of the main climatological features.

SEASONS

The year can be divided approximately into two seasons ; summer from November to April and winter from May to October, though April to June and September can be looked upon as transitional periods, during which, incidentally, the weather is wellnigh perfect.

RAINFALL

The average annual rainfall at or near sea-level is 50 inches or less, the minimum being about 30 inches in the western and north-western coastal areas. The amount increases steadily with altitude and reaches nearly 200 inches on the highest part of the central plateau at about 2,000 feet above sea-level.

Summer rainfall produces by far the larger proportion of the total for the year. The main source of the rain is tropical cyclones. When the centre of one passes over or close to the island the rainfall is very heavy, particularly in the case of a slowly moving cyclone. For example, in the cyclone of March, 1931, one locality recorded over 36 inches in 24 hours and 130 inches for the month.

The other important source of summer rainfall is instability showers (" convectional " rain) falling during the early afternoon in calm or nearly calm weather. These showers are of fairly short duration but are frequently extremely heavy.

Winter rainfall is mostly of an orographic nature produced by the lifting and cooling of the trade wind stream as it passes over the island. It is in the form of light rain or drizzle, most of which falls over the central high-ground area.

True droughts are rare except near sea-level, but very large deficiencies occur from time to time, particularly in summer months whenever there is little or no cyclone activity in this part of the South Indian Ocean.

TEMPERATURE

The mean temperature varies from 74° F, at sea-level to 67° F. at 2,000 feet, and the mean annual range is 11° F. The highest and lowest values recorded at the Observatory, at an altitude of 180 feet, are 94.8° F. and 49.9° F. respectively, and the minimum at 1,850 feet is 44.9° F. The mean daily range is 13.5° F.

HUMIDITY

The mean relative humidity increases from 70% at sea-level to nearly 90% at 1,850 feet. The lowest value recorded at the Observatory is 33%. The mean daily range varies from 19% in April to 31% in November at 180 feet.

SUNSHINE

The average number of hours per day of bright sunshine is 7.8 at 180 feet and 7.0 at 1,400 feet.

WINDS

During the winter months, with only brief occasional interruptions due to distant extra tropical depressions, the island experiences steady south-east to east-south-east trade winds of moderate strength. From time to time they become fairly strong for a day or two but never reach gale force.

In summer the average direction of the trades becomes easterly and of light to moderate force, and interruptions are much more frequent. When they are due to depressions to the south the winds become very light, mainly north-west to north. When due to tropical cyclones gales from any direction may be experienced,

TROPICAL CYCLONES

Cyclones occur during the summer season, usually between November and May, with the greatest frequency of occurrence in January and February. They have been known to affect Mauritius slightly on rare occasions in September and October.

• Over the period for which data are available, nearly 100 years, very severe cyclones have been rare, but, as in 1945, it is possible for the island to be struck by two destructive cyclones in a matter of weeks.

The highest average wind velocity so far recorded has been about 90 miles per hour, with peak velocities of 130 miles per hour. The winds near the centre are, however, extremely gusty and this, as well as the torrential rain that occurs, adds considerably to the destruction caused.

Chapter II : History

The island of Mauritius was probably visited both by Arab sailors and by Malays during the Middle Ages ; and on maps of about 1,500 it is shown with an Arabic name. During the early sixteenth century Portuguese sailors visited it several times, and the first European to discover Mauritius is believed to have been Domingos Fernandez. The island appears on many sixteenth-century maps with the Portuguese name of Cerne or Cirne.

Dutch sailors visited it first in 1598 and remained it Mauritius, after their ruler Prince Maurice of Nassau ; later they made frequent calls on their trading expeditions to the East Indies. First-hand accounts of these visits exist, and of visits by English, French and Danish ships, which called at Mauritius for water, food, and cargoes of ebony wood. An English trading company planned to occupy the island, but was forestalled in 1638 by a Dutch company, whose settlement lasted (with a gap from 1658 to 1664) until 1710. It was from Mauritius in 1642 that Tasman set out on his most important voyage of Australasian discovery.

The Dutch settlers never numbered much over three hundred (adults, children and slaves all counted) and the most useful element was a group of twenty or thirty farmers, rearing cattle, hunting, fishing, growing food crops and some tobacco. But the settlement never developed enough to produce dividends and the Dutch company finally abandoned it in 1710. The most noteworthy results of this Dutch occupation were the exploitation of the island's great ebony forests and the extinction of the Dodo, a bird peculiar to Mauritius and often mentioned by early seventeenth-century travellers. Prior to the Dutch occupation the island was uninhabited. The slaves they introduced were taken from Madagascar.

The French in 1715 claimed the island and called it "Ile de France," but seem not to have settled any of their surplus Bourbon colonists there until 1722. In the intervals, European pirates from Madagascar and ships of the British navy searching for the pirates were almost the only visitors to the deserted island.

From 1722 till about 1767 Mauritius was governed by the French East India Company and from 1767 to 1810 by officials appointed by the French Government, apart from the brief period of independence under the Colonial Assembly during the French Revolution. The population had grown to almost one thousand (two hundred of them Europeans) in 1735, and from the governorship of the great Mahé de Labourdonnais onwards it increased rapidly, reaching nearly twenty thousand in 1767 (fifteen thousand of them slaves). Labourdonnais did more than any other Governor to change what was a petty outpost into a strong, prosperous and well populated Colony. Much of the land was divided into concessions of approximately a quarter mile by a mile, and most of these were farmed: coffee, manioc, maize, vegetables, fruit, indigo, cloves and sugar were among the crops grown. There was some rearing of poultry, goats and cattle.

Port Louis, the capital, towards the end of the Company's rule of the island was a lair of speculators and adventurers, desirous of returning to Europe as soon as possible. During the wars of the eighteenth century (Austrian Succession War, Seven Years War, War of American Independence), the island became a naval depot, supplying French fleets fighting the British in the Indian Ocean and was the pivot of ambitious French schemes to drive the British out of their Indian trading settlements. It was also a port of call for several expeditions (notably that of Bougainville), and was described by many French travellers (of which the best known in Bernardin de Saint Pierre, author of *Paul et Virginie*).

From 1767, under royal government, the population continued to increase, reaching thirty thousand in 1777, forty thousand in 1787, and nearly sixty thousand in 1797 (including fifty thousand slaves from Madagascar and Africa). During the French Revolution the inhabitants of Mauritius set up a government virtually independent of France, because the property owners were resolved to defend their interests against the *jacobins* and *sans culottes* and to resist the attempt made by the French revolutionary government to release the slaves. The Colonial Assembly organised very successful and damaging raids on English commerce whenever England and France were at war. These raids continued while Decaen (one of Napoleon's generals) was governor, until in 1810 a strong British expedition, long planned and more than once postponed, was sent to capture the island. Bourbon and Rodriguez

were also occupied by the British in 1810, but by the Treaty of Paris in 1814 Bourbon was given back to France. Mauritius and its dependencies, including Rodriguez and Seychelles, were then ceded definitely to Great Britain.

Many English officials were brought in together with a large garrison of several regiments. The garrison was gradually reduced by 1870 to half a batallion ; and after 1914 still further. During the recent war the garrison was greatly augmented by troops of the King's African Rifles and detachments of British gunners and engineers, of the Royal Navy and Air Force. Few English merchants and private persons have settled in Mauritius, whose European population has remained mainly French in language and sentiment. After 1825 the island flourished, especially through sugar exported to England, the crop increasing from 14,000 tons to 34,000 tons in the decade 1823-33. During these early years the English Government's suppression of the slave trade and then its plans to free the slaves were fiercely opposed in Mauritius until two million pounds sterling were paid to slave owners in compensation for the loss of their slaves. New labourers were brought in from India instead to work in the fields. The population, which in 1833 has reached a hundred thousand (three quarters of them slaves), had by 1861 risen to three hundred thousand, nearly two hundred thousand of them being immigrants from India, most of whom remained to settle in Mauritius. After 1880 far fewer immigrant labourers were brought in, and the census of 1944 showed that the population had in the last eighty years increased but not greatly altered racially: 265,000 Indo-Mauritians out of a total of 419,000.

Immigrant labourers, imported fertilisers, improved methods of agriculture and richer cane varieties all aiding, the sugar crop rose to 70,000 tons in 1853, 150,000 tons by 1900, and this year reached the record figure of 392,000 tons. For the sake of sugar forests were cut down, labourers brought in, reservoirs and irrigation schemes carried out, new government departments set up and technicians trained. As Joseph Conrad wrote: "First-rate sugarcane is grown there. All the population lives for it and by it. Sugar is their daily bread."

Other industries were sporadically encouraged and normally neglected. After the slaves had been freed, much less food was grown locally, and more was imported, especially rice from India. This became the staple food of the population and so remained, except when in the 1939-45 war rice supplies from Burma and India were cut off and imported flour and local crops had to be used as substitutes. When boom prices were being paid for sugar after the 1914-18 war, various minor industries, including tea, brick and tile manufacture, tobacco, aloe-fibre bags and a government dairy were developed.

One side of Mauritian history concerns the cyclones, epidemics and crop pests which from time to time have upset its economy. In the eighteen-fifties there were epidemics of cholera and in the eighteen-sixties five years of epidemic malaria, which caused the death of 20,000 people in Port Louis alone in 1867 and the mass-migration of thousands, including almost all the fairly well-to-do, from Port Louis and the coastal districts to the higher, healthier parts of Plaines Wilhems. Curepipe, a scattered village in 1865, was by 1895 large enough to have a town board nominated annually by the Governor, and by 1945 was a town of over 20,000 people. The district of Plaines Wilhems, which in 1851 had 14,000 inhabitants, grew to 75,000 in 1921 and 120,000 in 1944. The cyclone of 1892, in which 1,200 persons were killed; the epidemic of surra in 1902, which killed off all the draught oxen and caused sugar estates hurriedly to import light railways; bubonic plague from 1899; the "*Phytalus Smithi*" beetle which was in 1911 found to be attacking the sugarcane; the 1919 epidemic of influenza; the spread of malaria during the nineteen-thirties into the hills and higher districts; finally, three cyclones and a serious outbreak of infantile paralysis in 1945; these misfortunes are woven into the pattern of the island's history.

When sugar prices were high and the island was prosperous, living conditions were improved in various ways. The sanitation of Port Louis was, after long discussion, improved in the eighteen-nineties. Sir Ronald Ross's visit in 1908 led to useful anti-malarial works during the next twenty years. Reservoirs at Mare-aux-Vacoas (1893-95), La Ferme (1918), and La Nicolière (1924) brought irrigation and domestic water to private houses and to sugar estates in several districts. Child welfare and similar activities developed in the war years. After expert inquiries in 1921, the water supply of Port Louis was greatly improved, and the port itself was somewhat modernised. Under the stimulus of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts more money was spent on education in the nineteen-forties. Prior to 1937, government revenue had come mainly from taxes on goods entering or leaving the island, and on various local products. A graduated poll tax on incomes was introduced and within ten years had almost doubled government revenue.

When sugar prices were low or climatic difficulties discouraging, the island had at intervals to raise loans or obtain grants from London. This happened in 1892 and again in 1908, when there was a Royal Commission of Inquiry under Sir Frank Swettenham sent out from England; again in 1930, when government expenditure on public works and on salaries was cut down, and in 1945, in consequence of the disastrous cyclones of that year.

During the wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45, many Mauritians went overseas to serve in the armed forces. During the first war Mauritius suffered very little, goods not becoming scarce for some years ; but in the second war food ran very short and at one time, in 1942, a Japanese attack, as a sideshow to an occupation of Madagascar, was regarded as inevitable. Later in the war the garrison was reinforced with African troops ; the harbour of Grand Port after years of oblivion was used as an auxiliary naval base and a permanent aerodrome was built near Mahebourg. The civil service, always numerous in Mauritius, expanded still further during the war years to meet the need to control an increasingly large sphere of human activities: permits for exports and imports, requisitioning of houses and other property, conscription for military service, rationing of various foods and commodities, fixing of retail prices, and so on.

This year Mauritius has taken a step nearer that self-government which it momentarily enjoyed in the days of the French Revolution. It has planned a corresponding advance in the economic and social welfare spheres. The island is at a turning point in its comparatively brief history, and whether it uses or misuses the opportunities is for itself to decide. The days of benevolent autocracy are over.

Chapter III : Administration

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor with an Executive Council and a Council of Government. The Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials. In the following year the Constitution was amended and a Council including unofficial members was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and of an equal number of other persons to be taken from the chief landowners and principal merchants of the Colony ; seven officials and seven unofficials were accordingly appointed.

The Constitution was again amended in October, 1885. The Council of Government under the revised Constitution was composed of the Governor, eight ex-officio members, nine members nominated by the Governor and ten members elected by the people: of the latter, two represented the town of Port Louis, the capital of the island, and the remaining eight represented the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members were to be persons not holding any public office.

The Constitution was further amended in July, 1933, by fixing at two-thirds the proportion of the nominated members of the Council who were to be unofficials and, although no provision to that effect was made in the Letters Patent, the nominated unofficial members have been allowed a free vote on all occasions.

The Constitution of the Executive Council which was hitherto composed of the Governor and four ex-officio members was amended at the same time, and the former practice of appointing unofficial members to the Council was revised.

Debates in the Council of Government may be either in English or French. The normal life of a Council is five years, but the last one to sit under the terms of the 1933 Constitution lasted from 1936 to June 1948. This long extension was due first of all to the war and subsequently to the delays in arriving at a final decision on the new and more liberal Constitution which had been promised to the Colony. The protracted labours of the Consultative Committee on the revision of the Constitution had ended in virtual stalemate. In 1947 the then Governor, Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, broke this stalemate by submitting to the Secretary of State revised proposals based on his belief that the bulk of the population was not ripe for fully democratic institutions. To guard against possible abuse, certain safeguards were suggested. But within these limitations the widest possible measure of enfranchisement on the basis of a simple literacy requirement was recommended by the Governor.

His recommendations were accepted and embodied in the Letters Patent, Royal Instructions and Order in Council dated the 19th December, 1947. General elections were held on 9th and 10th August, 1948, and the new Council met on the 1st September.

According to the terms of the new Constitution, British subjects, male and female, of 21 years of age or upwards who have been ordinarily and *bona-fide* resident in the Colony for a period of 2 years preceding an election, and:

- (a) being ordinarily resident in some electoral district, are able to read and write simple sentences and sign their names in one of certain specified languages to the satisfaction of the Registering Officer ; or
- (b) being ordinarily resident in some electoral district, are qualified as serving in the Forces, or as ex-servicemen discharged with certificate of satisfactory service ; or
- (c) have been for 6 months previous to the date of registration owners or occupiers of business premises in an electoral districts ;

are entitled to vote unless debarred under the specific disqualifications listed in section 17 of the Order in Council. This section debars aliens, those under 21 years of age, those not possessing

the residence qualification, criminals serving an unexpired sentence of over 12 months, the insane and, finally, those "disqualified for registration by any law for the time being in force in the Colony relating to offences connected with elections."

The Legislative Council is now composed of 3 ex-officio, 12 nominated unofficial members and 19 elected members under the presidency of the Governor. The Executive Council consists of 3 ex-officio members (the Colonial Secretary, Financial Secretary and Procureur-General) and 4 appointed members. These four, members of Legislative Council, are elected by their fellow-members. The Royal Instructions leave the door open for the appointment of other members to Executive Council, but this power has not yet been exercised. The tenure of office of Appointed Members is for three years.

There has been a regrouping of electoral districts under the new Order in Council. Plaines Wilhems and Black River are joined together to form one electoral district returning six members. The electoral districts of Pamplemousses-Rivière du Rempart, Moka-Flacq and Grand Port-Savanne each return three members, and the capital constituency of Port Louis has four members because of its dense population and commercial importance.

Under the 1933 Constitution, the number of registered electors was never greater than 12,000 (the figure for December 1947 was 11,799). The number of registered electors under the new Constitution is six times greater—71,723 having qualified to vote in the August elections.

The head of the Civil Service is the Colonial Secretary who is also the Governor's chief adviser on administrative and political matters, while the Financial Secretary advises on financial policy.

A start in local government was made in October 1946 when a Civil Commissioner was appointed to take charge of the southern districts of Grand Port and Savanne. In May 1947 a second one was appointed for the northern districts of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart, and a third Civil Commissioner, for the districts of Moka and Flacq, assumed duty towards the end of this year.

The rural part of Plaines Wilhems and the underpopulated district of Black River still remain outside the district administration and it has not yet been decided whether to include them by the appointment of a fourth Civil Commissioner or by a regrouping of the districts under the existing Commissioners.

The forty village councils constituted in 1947 have now grown to sixty. They have been allowed full freedom in drawing up their programmes of work and it is gratifying to note that their projects have on the whole been eminently practical and useful. They are working for the public good in such matters as the division and allocation of Crown Land for foodcrop cultivation, the control over the supply and price of fish, of firewood and timber. A few Councils have developed very rapidly indeed and have been given government contracts for such services as scavenging and the upkeep of cemeteries. With the pump-priming funds provided by the central administration, councils have gone ahead with road repairs and the construction of bridges, latrines and, to a lesser extent, buildings. But many village councils are still struggling to find their feet, and much of the time of the Civil Commissioners is occupied in visiting them and discussing their affairs on the spot. In this way the machinery of local government is being slowly built up by experimentation and the sharing of experience gained.

The larger urban areas of Mauritius have had for many years their own local government organisations. The capital, Port Louis is administered by a Municipality originally constituted under Ordinance 16 of 1849, completely revised by Ordinance 23 of 1903. The first annual elections were held in 1850 when eighteen Councillors were returned for the town as a whole. The number of registered electors on the 31st December, 1948 was 3,485.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected by the Council subject to confirmation by the Governor.

Four town of Plaines Wilhems District are administered by boards of Commissioners established and constituted as follows:

Curepipe	...	Ordinance No. 12 of 1889	...	Chairman and five members
Beau Bassin and Rose Hill		Ordinance No. 31 of 1895	...	Chairman and seven members
Quatre Bornes...		Ordinance No. 32 of 1895	...	Chairman and five members

All the members are nominated annually by the Governor.

Mr. Swinden, an expert on local government, visited Mauritius in 1945, as a Chairman of a Commission to enquire into the conditions of pay and service of the Mauritius Civil Service. He was also asked to investigate and report on local government. His report which deals with the Municipality of Port Louis, the township boards and rural government was referred to a Select Committee by the Governor in April 1946. The Select Committee's report was submitted in April 1947, and a debate on it was begun in July, adjourned until October and again adjourned until the Governor's return to the Colony.

No further progress was made this year on the Swinden report on local government owing to preoccupation with the general elections and the settling-down of the new Legislative Council.

The machinery for the administration of justice has been dealt with in Chapter 9 of this report, to which reference is invited. It only remains to add that the judiciary is almost completely a local preserve. All the law and judicial officers, with the exception of the Chief Justice and one Puisne Judge, are at present Mauritian born.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Central Administration was strengthened in 1947 by the addition of a Public Relations branch as part of the permanent machinery of Government. Public relations in Mauritius had begun as early as 1942 when an Education Officer was seconded for this purpose to the war-time Censorship and Information Department. Shortly after the conclusion of hostilities the decision was taken to retain the purely public relations aspects of the department and to separate them as speedily as possible from the propaganda activities of the Information Office. The officer seconded for Public Relations work visited the United Kingdom in 1946 and had conversations with the Information Department of the Colonial Office, the Central Office of Information, British Council, British Broadcasting Corporation and other organisations concerned with publicity matters. He returned to the Colony in February 1947, and assumed control of the Public Relations Office.

This new department consists of a head office in Port Louis, concerned with the preparation and issue of local government publicity and with the distribution of publicity material received from Great Britain and elsewhere. Its functions are twofold—to interpret the Government to the people and the people to the Government. It has also the further responsibility of publicising Mauritius to the outside world and of increasing local knowledge about and understanding of Great Britain and the other territories that make up the British Commonwealth and Empire.

Close relations are maintained between the Public Relations Office and the local press. The latter, which is free to accept or refuse any material sent to it by the Public Relations Office, does in fact provide space generously for official communiques. About two-thirds of these are paid for and one-third published free of charge. The office also distributes films to the local commercial cinemas and maintains a steady flow of books, periodicals and pamphlets to libraries, clubs, village councils and similar organisations.

Two illustrated papers are published monthly and issued free by the Public Relations Office: *Savez-vous Que*, a bilingual publication in English and French for the general population and *Hindi Newsletter* in Hindustani for the Indo-Mauritian population. The circulation is 6,000 and 5,000 respectively. The office also issued pamphlets, booklets and posters on behalf of other Government departments. So far, these have dealt mostly with health and nutrition questions.

The Public Relations Officer controls the machinery for publicity, but is not solely responsible for the initiation of publicity. Every officer of Government is expected to be a public relations officer for his own department and to do everything within his power to improve the relations between his department and the public it serves.

The machinery referred to in the last paragraph includes the Mauritius Broadcasting Service, the News Monitoring Service which was incorporated in the M.B.S. this year and the Mobile Cinema Unit. A survey of the work of the M.B.S. has been given in Chapter 10. In December the M.B.S. undertook as a temporary measure at the request of the Commissioner for India in Mauritius the monitoring, printing and part-distribution of "News from India," issued from New Delhi by the Indian Information Service. Reception of Reuter news, the London Press Service and News from India continued on a manual basis during 1948, but preparations were made for the change-over in 1949 to the automatic recording system known as Hellschreiber.

The Mobile Cinema Unit, a most valuable gift from the war-time Ministry of Information, is deservedly popular throughout Mauritius. Far more demands are received for visits of the Cinema than can be satisfied. In 1947 a regular itinerary was worked out for the northern and southern districts in consultation with the Civil Commissioners for these areas, and a similar itinerary has now been adopted for the districts of Moka—Flacq. Arrangements were also made with the Education Department for school shows in the rural districts where electricity is not available, the other schools being covered by the department's projector. The Mobile Cinema Unit concentrates mainly on the remoter rural districts. People collect together from miles around wherever the Unit is booked to give a show and audiences varying between 1,500 and 4,000 are common. Both sound and silent pictures are shown and commentaries are given in French, Creole and Hindustani. The Commentator also gives brief talks over the microphone on malaria control, sanitation, food production and similar topics. A fairly comprehensive film library, the gift of the Central Office of Information and the British Council, is available both for Mobile Cinema Shows and for issue on loan to

the Education Department, Military and individual possessors of 16-mm. projectors. The dependency of Rodriguez has been supplied with a 16-mm. silent projector and supplies of films are despatched on each shipping opportunity.

During 1948 the Mobile Cinema Unit gave a total of 199 shows, of which 168 were public and 31 special (to medical audiences, the Mauritius Police, etc.). These shows were attended by an estimated grand total of 330,700 persons. Returns of attendances are made by the police officers present at shows.

Chapter IV : Weights and Measures

The metric system is in general use in the Colony. Certain French measures are still used in connection with measurements of land, the more common being :

1 French foot	= 1.06 English feet
1 gaulette	= 10 French feet
1 arpent	= 40,000 square French feet or • 1.04 acres
1 toise	= 6 French feet or 2 yards 4 inches

The following measures of capacity are also in use :

1 barrique	= 50 gallons (cane juice etc.)
1 bouteille	= 800 c. c. (liquid)
1 chopine	= $\frac{1}{2}$ bouteille
1 corde	= 80 French cubic feet or 96.82 English cubic feet (used only to measure firewood)

The gaulette is used only in the field, and the *livre* (one pound) is used currently to mean $\frac{1}{2}$ Kilogram, that is, 1.10 English pounds.

Weights, measures and scales are controlled by the Police throughout the Colony. The control of weigh-bridges on sugar estates is the responsibility of the Central Board (Department of Agriculture).

The following statement shows the number of weights and measures stamped by the Police during the year :

Weights ...	...	...	...	...	21,704
Scales ...	...	...	...	...	5,278
Measures of capacity ...	...	...	...	...	3,711
Measures of length ...	...	...	...	...	231
Weighing machines ...	...	...	...	...	81

The duties collected in this connection amounted to Rs. 7,238.

150 offences under the Weights and Measures Ordinance were detected during the year, and 150 weights, 49 measures of capacity, 9 scales and 1 measure of length were seized by the Police.

Money values throughout this report are given in rupees and cents. The rate of exchange is Rs. 13.33 to the £. For ease of calculation, the Rupee may be taken as the equivalent to 1/6.

Chapter V : Newspapers and Periodicals

<i>Name</i>	<i>Proprietors or Publishers</i>	<i>Editor</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
DAILY :				
<i>Mauricien-Cernéen</i>	... Hon. Raoul Rivet, C.M.G., M.B.E., Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur Le Cernéen Company Ltd.	Gabriel Martial Hervé de Sornay	French and English	(Still in combination).
<i>Advanee</i>	... The Mauritius Free Press Service Company Ltd.	Hon. Aunauth Beejadhur		
<i>L'Oeuvre</i>	... Dr the Hon. Edgar Millien	Dr the Hon. Edgar Millien	French and English	(Published independently since Dec., 1948).
<i>L'Après-Midi</i>	... Gaston Pierre	Gaston Pierre	French and English	
<i>La Vie Ouvrière</i>	... Hon. Raoul Rivet, C.M.G., M.B.E. etc.	Joseph Gérard	French	
<i>The New Era</i>	... H. K. Naudeer	H. K. Naudeer	English	
<i>Chinese Commercial Paper.</i>	Wong-Soo Kiew	Pang-Kwan Hoi	Chinese	
<i>Chinese Daily News</i>	... Li-Pak-U	Too-Wei-Man	Chinese	
BI-WEEKLY :				
<i>Janata</i>	... The Mauritius Free Press Service Company Ltd.	Hon. J. N. Roy	Hindi	

Name	Proprietors or Publishers	Editor	Language	Remarks
QUARTERLY :				
<i>Save</i> ...	Le Cercle de la Jeunesse ...	Editorial Board	French	Literary.
<i>Tropical Magazine Mauri- tius Correspondence and Exchange Club</i>	René J. Noyau	René J. Noyau	French and English	Philately.
<i>La Revue Artistique</i> ...	J. I. Tranquille	J. I. Tranquille	French and English	Literary.
<i>The Tamil Voice</i> ...	Tamil Maha Sangam	Secretary, Tamil Maha Sangam	English and Tamil	Organ of the Tamil Maha Sangam.
<i>Diocesan Quarterly Ma- gazine</i>	Bishop of Mauritius	Archdeacon Allan Rogers	English and French	Church of England.
<i>Indian Cultural Review</i> ...	Indian Cultural Association	Dr, the Hon. S. Ram- goolam	English and French	Literary.
ANNUAL :				
<i>Calendrier du Diocese de Port Louis</i>	Bishop of Mauritius	Mgr. R. Manet	French	Roman Catholic, reli- gious.
<i>Bulletin Annuel de la Société de l'Histoire de l'île Maurice</i>	Société de l'Histoire de l'île Maurice	Octave Béchet	English and French	Local history.
<i>Mauritius Institute Bulletin</i>	Mauritius Institute	Director	English and French	Scientific Papers on flora and fauna of Mascarenes.
<i>Dictionnaire de Biographie l'île Maurice</i>	Société de l'Histoire de l'île Maurice	Auguste Toussaint	English and French	Literary.
<i>The Muslim Youth Bulletin</i>	The Muslim Youth Brigade	Eshack Abdul Latif	English and French	Organ of Moslem Youth Brigade.
<i>Cahiers Mauriciens</i> ...	Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens	Mme R. K/Vern	French	Literary.
<i>Spiritus College du Saint Esprit</i>	Saint Esprit College	Rev. A. Meaney	French and English	Thrice yearly, literary

CHAPTER V : NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS—Continued

Name	Proprietors or Publishers	Editor	Language	Remarks
WEEKLY :				
<i>Arya Vir-Jagriti</i>	... L. Moothien ...	Pt. Luxmandut	English and Hindi	
<i>Planters Gazette</i>	... The Mauritius News Ltd.	Hervé de Sornay	... English	
<i>La Vie Catholique</i>	... L'Union Catholique ...	Editorial Board presided over by Edwin de Robillard	French	... Religious.
MONTHLY AND BI-MONTHLY :				
<i>Church Magazine</i>	... Bishop of Mauritius ...	Archdeacon Allan Rogers	English	... Monthly. Church of England.
<i>Revue de Marie</i>	... Marie Peril ...	Marie Peril	French	... Roman Catholic, religious.
<i>Scout Digest</i> ...	... H. E. Patel ...	H. E. Patel	English and French	... Roman Catholic.
<i>Scouts de Saint Louis</i>	... — ...	Rev. Jean Margeot	French	... Bi-monthly. Roman Catholic, religious.
<i>Legionnaires</i>	... Légion de Marie ...	Jacques Castel	French	... Bi-monthly. Roman Catholic, religious.
<i>La Croisade des Jeunes</i> ...	... Rev. Père Le Juge de Segrais ...	Rev. Père Le Juge de Segrais	French	... Bi-monthly. Literary.
<i>Essor</i> ...	... Cercle Littéraire de Port Louis ...	Editorial Board	French	... Bi-monthly. Literary.
<i>The Breeders' News</i>	... Breeders' Club ...	Hervé de Sornay	English and French	Bi-monthly. Sugar Industry and Agricultural Science.
<i>Revue Agricole de l'Île Maurice</i>	The Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture	Alfred North-Coombes	English and French	Bi-monthly. Sugar Industry and Agricultural Science.

Chapter VI : Bibliography

The new edition of the *Laws of Mauritius* prepared by His Honour Sir Charlton Lane, Chief Justice of Mauritius, was received in December and laid on the table of Legislative Council, but has not yet been released for sale. The publication of the *Mauritius (Law) Reports* was continued throughout the war years, and the editions from 1927 to 1947 are available at the Government Printing Office, Port Louis.

Non-government publications of interest published during 1945 include two books on cyclones (*see* Appendix III for details) and an historical work entitled "Visits and Despatches" by P. J. Barnwell, M.A., an Education Officer working at the Royal College, Curepipe.

Appendix I to this Report gives a list of Development and Welfare publications issued by the Government of Mauritius since 1944. Appendix II lists other government publications of general interest on sale to the public. A selection of books on Mauritius available from other sources is given in Appendix III and a list of out-of-print books of interest to students of history, biography and literature is given in Appendix IV. Further information about the bibliography of Mauritius may be obtained on application to the Custodian of Archives, Registrar-General's Department, Port Louis.

APPENDIX I

Development and Welfare

LIST OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Title	Date
<i>Memorandum by the Governor (Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, K.C.M.G.), on the Development and Welfare Organisation.</i>	1944
<i>Report on Health Conditions in Mauritius, by Dr. A. Rankine, M.C.</i>	1944
<i>Memorandum on the Colonial Development and Welfare Act on Schemes already submitted.</i>	1945
<i>Progress Report No. 1.</i>	1945
<i>Inaugural Meeting of the Central Development and Welfare Committee.</i>	1945
<i>Milk Production and Distribution. Creameries and Ghee Refineries, Demonstration Poultry Farm. Lard Factory, 1944.</i>	1945
<i>Pine Plantations in Mauritius—Working Plan. Report by H. C. King.</i>	1945
<i>Co-operation in Mauritius—Report by W. K. H. Campbell, C.M.G.</i>	1945
<i>Statement of Financial Implications of Proposed Health and Education Services</i>	1945
<i>Memorandum embodying Suggestions for financing the Proposed Health and Education Services.</i>	1945
<i>Education Services including Training College.</i>	1945
<i>A Scheme for a Teachers' Training College and attached Schools.</i>	1945
<i>Report on Sanitary Conditions affecting an Outbreak of Poliomyelitis in Mauritius, by Dr. Kenneth Martin and Mr. J. S. Stirten</i>	1945
<i>Memorandum on Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Mauritius Ex-servicemen, by Major A. E. de Chazal O.B.E., M.R.C.P., M.S., F.R.C.S.</i>	1945
<i>Irrigation Proposals.</i>	1945
<i>Mauritius Hemp Industry.</i>	1945
<i>Report on the Industrial Development Advisory Committee.</i>	1945
<i>Pine Plantations in Mauritius—Working Plan (Revision) by H. C. King.</i>	1945

APPENDIX I—continued

Title	Date
<i>Memorandum by Dr. the Honourable A. E. de Chazal on Proposed Scheme for Improvement and Expansion of the Medical and Health Services in Mauritius.</i>	1946
<i>A Small Scale Experiment in the Use of D.D.T., in Mauritius by H. D. Tonking, R. Lavoipierre and C. M. Courtois.</i>	1946
<i>An Essay on Housing, Urban and Rural Planning with Special Reference to Mauritius, by R. Lavoipierre.</i>	1946
<i>Report on a Visit to Trinidad, Louisiana and other Countries, by P. O. Wiehe.</i>	1946
<i>Report on Estate Housing, Slum Clearance and Town and Regional Planning in the Island of Mauritius—First Report by P. M. Aldred.</i>	1946
<i>Second Meeting of the Central Development and Welfare Committee.</i>	1946
<i>Revised Memorandum on Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten-Year-Plan.</i>	1946
<i>Report on the Tea Industry of Mauritius by Captain E. G. B. de Mowbray, C.B.E., R.N. (retd).</i>	1946
<i>Milk Production and Distribution: Steps to implement Recommendations of the 1944 Report by a Subcommittee of the Mauritius Breeders' Club.</i>	1946
<i>Report on the Possibilities of Compositing Urban Refuse in Mauritius.</i>	1946
<i>Progress Report No. 3</i>	1947
<i>Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten-Year Plan. Estimates for 1947-48 as passed by the Council of Government on 8th July, 1947.</i>	1947
<i>Report on the Engineering Aspect of the Sewage Disposal of Plaines Wilhems District and on the existing and proposed Filtration Plants connected with Domestic Water Supply.</i>	1947
<i>Use of D.D.T. residual Sprays in Control of Malaria over An Area of 16 sq. Miles in Mauritius.</i>	1947
<i>Report on an Investigation into the Possibility of Cultivating Tung Oil Trees in Mauritius.</i>	1947
<i>Social Planning and Welfare by L. Silberman.</i>	1947
<i>Report on the Mauritius Fibre Industry, by W. Lock, O.B.E., and P. W. Lees (Publication No. 41).</i>	1948
<i>Mauritius Economic Commission 1947-48. Part I of the Report.</i>	1948
<i>Progress Report No. 4. (Publication No. 46).</i>	1948

APPENDIX II

Government Publications of General Interest

(ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, PORT LOUIS)

Title	Rs. c.
<i>Blue Book for 1945.</i>	7.50
<i>Census in Mauritius, 1944, Final Report on—M. Koenig.</i>	5.00
<i>Civil Service Commission 1945, Report of the—(per set of 3 vols.).</i>	15.00
<i>Commission of Enquiry into Unrest on Sugar Estates in Mauritius, 1937, Report of.</i>	5.00
<i>Commission of Enquiry into the Disturbances which occurred in the North of Mauritius in 1943, Report of.</i>	2.50
<i>Commission of Enquiry in General Position and Operations of Insurance Companies in Mauritius, 1939.</i>	1.00
<i>Companies Laws (1910 to 1920).</i>	3.00
<i>Customs Handbook, 1948.</i>	2.00
<i>Defence Regulations.</i>	5.00
<i>Digest of the Decisions of the Supreme Court of Mauritius 1926–1943.</i>	50.00
<i>Estimates 1947–48.</i>	5.50
<i>Estimates 1948–49.</i>	5.50
<i>Financial Regulations—General Orders, Part II.</i>	1.00
<i>A School Geography of Mauritius (1945)—R. H. Ardill.</i>	1.00
<i>Guide Élémentaire d'Accouchement (3ème édition).</i>	2.50
<i>Government Gazette No. 4 of 7th January, 1948 containing Letters Patent, Royal Instruction and Order in Council re. New Constitution.</i>	1.00
<i>Irrigation and Hydro-Electric Resources in Mauritius, 1940—Sir Bede Clifford.</i>	30.00
<i>Itinerary of Roads in Mauritius with map (1925)—F. M. Desbleds.</i>	7.50

APPENDIX II—continued

<i>Title</i>	<i>Rs. c.</i>
<i>Indigenous Species in Mauritius, Interim Report on—</i> <i>H. C. King.</i>	0.50
<i>Leave and Passage Regulations—General Orders, Part IV.</i>	0.50
<i>Malaria, Prevention of, 1908—</i> Ronald Ross	2.00
<i>Mare-aux-Vacoas, Notes on—</i> Harriot.	1.00
<i>Meat and Milk Commission, 1942, Report of the.</i>	1.00
<i>Medical and Sanitary Matters, Report on—</i> Dr. Balfour.	15.00
<i>Nutritional Investigations in Mauritius (Final Report),</i> <i>1942-45.</i>	1.00
<i>Nutritional Macrocytic Anæmia, by</i> E. George Sippe, M.B., B.S.	14.00
<i>Rail, Road, Harbour and Lighterage Commission, 1940—</i> <i>Report of</i>	0.60
<i>Ready Reckoner—</i> Captain North-Coombes and A. d'Emmerez de Charmoy.	1.00
<i>Revision of the Constitution—Correspondence with the</i> <i>Secretary of State for the Colonies.</i>	0.25
<i>Sanitary Conditions affecting an outbreak of Poliomyelitis</i> <i>in Mauritius.</i>	0.20
<i>Social Insurance Schemes in Mauritius.</i>	0.25
<i>Story of the 1945 Cyclones, by</i> K. Hazareesingh	2.00
<i>Survey and Field Treatment of Malaria in Mauritius—</i> George Sippe, M.B., B.S., and May Twining, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., (published by Crown Agents).	2.25
<i>Trade Unionism in Mauritius—</i> Ken Baker	1.00
<i>Trade Unionism—</i> Ken. Baker.	0.25
<i>Trade and Shipping Returns, 1945</i>	2.50
<i>Two talks given on the Mauritius Broadcasting Service</i> <i>by Professor Thornton-White and Mr. Leo Silberman,</i> <i>Town Planning Experts.</i>	0.10
<i>Water Supply, Report on 1922—</i> Mansergh	2.00

APPENDIX III

Books on Mauritius published by Non-Government Organisations

<i>Title</i>	<i>Publishers or Agents for sale</i>	<i>Price</i>
<i>Port Louis—Deux Siècles d'Histoire 1735-1935</i> (1936) by A. Toussaint	The author, Curepipe Mauritius.	1st edition, Rs. 25.00 2nd edition, Rs. 8.00
<i>L'Ile d'Aigle—Naufrage de la barque Diégo</i> (1936) by Fr. Dussercle.	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd. Port Louis, Mauritius.	Rs. 2.50
<i>La Pluie à l'Ile Maurice</i> (1935) by Marc Herchenroder.	do.	Rs. 8.00
<i>La Canne à Sucre à l'Ile Maurice</i> (1920) by P. de Sornay.	do.	Rs. 10.00
<i>The Evolution of Sugarcane Culture in Mauritius</i> (1937) by A. North- Coombes.	do.	Rs. 8.00
<i>Mauritius and the War</i> (1940) by the Indian Cultural Association.	do.	Rs. 5.00
<i>Grains de Sables</i> (1946) by Georges Pitot (an account of Mauritius troops in the Middle East).	do.	Rs. 2.50
<i>L'Ile Maurice : Guide Illustré</i> (1936) by C. Charoux.	do.	Rs. 1.50
<i>Mauritius Almanach and Commercial Handbook</i> (1941) by A. Bax.	do.	Rs. 10.00
<i>Escale aux Pamplémousses</i> (1947) by Clément Charoux.	do.	Rs. 3.00

APPENDIX III—continued

Title	Publishers or Agents for sale	Price
<i>Généalogie de Daruty de Grandpré.</i>	do.	—
<i>Le Diocèse de Port Louis</i> (1947) by Mgr. J. Mamet.	do.	Rs. 6.00
<i>Guide Pratique et Moderne du Petit Eleveur Mauricien</i> (1945) by Dr. J. Maingard, A. Darné and Capt. F. Wilson.	The Standard Printing Establishment, Port Louis, Mauritius.	Rs. 5.00
<i>The Grasses of Mauritius and Rodrigues</i> (1940) by C. E. Hubbard and R. E. Vaughan.	Crown Agents for the Colonies.	4s. 6d.
<i>Etude sur les trajectoires des cyclones</i> , by R. de Chasteauneuf.	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd. Port Louis.	Rs. 5.00
<i>Traité élémentaire de la théorie des cyclones dans l'Océan Indien Sud</i> , by J. R. Raffray.	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd. Port Louis.	Rs. 5.00
<i>Dictionary of Mauritian Biography</i> Nos. 1-23.	Standard Printing Establishment.	Between Rs. 1.00 and Rs. 2.00 per No.
<i>Early Almanachs of Mauritius</i> , by Dr. A. Toussaint	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd. Port Louis.	—
<i>Bulletin de la Société de l'Histoire de l'Île Maurice</i> , 1945-1947.	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd. Port Louis.	Rs. 5.00
<i>Cahiers Mauriciens</i> 1946.	do.	Rs. 2.50
<i>Cahiers Mauriciens</i> 1947.	do.	Rs. 2.50

APPENDIX III--continued

<i>Title</i>	<i>Publishers or Agents for sale</i>	<i>Price</i>
<i>La Defense de notre patri- monie</i> , by Pierre de Sornay	Nouvelle Imprimerie Co-operative.	Rs. 3.00
<i>Visits and Despatches</i> (1598-1948) by P. J. Barnwell, M.A.	Standard Printing Establishment.	Rs. 10.00

MAPS OF MAURITIUS

<i>Map of Mauritius</i> (quarter inch to mile).	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd. Port Louis.	Rs. 0.25
<i>Ordnance Survey Map</i> (Six sheets: one inch to mile).	E. Stanford, Ltd., London.	15s. 0d.
<i>The Mauritius Atlas.</i>	Collins- Longman, London.	3s. 6d.

APPENDIX IV

Out-of-Print books on Mauritius

Title

(a) GENERAL AND DESCRIPTIVE.

Mauritius Illustrated (London, 1914) by A. Macmillan.

L'Ile Maurice (Mauritius, 1921) by W. E. Hart.

Island of Mauritius (Mauritius, 1928) by R. Philogène.

(b) HISTORY.

T'eylandt Mauritius (1598-1710), (Mauritius, 1905), by
A. Pitot.

L'Ile de France (1715-1810), (Mauritius, 1905), by
A. Pitot.

APPENDIX IV—continued

Title

I. Ile Maurice (1810–1833), by. A. Pitot.

The History of Mauritius or the Isle of France (London, 1801) by Charles Grant, Viscount de Vaux.

Ile de France. Documents pour servir à son histoire Civil et Militaire (Mauritius, 1925) by St. Elme le Duc.

L'Ile de France sous Decaen (1803–1810) (Paris 1901) by Henri Prentout.

Le combat du Grand Port et la fin de l'occupation française (Mauritius, 1910) by Léon de Froberville.

Sea fights and corsairs of the Indian Ocean, being the naval history of Mauritius from 1715 to 1810. (Mauritius, 1934) by H. C. M. Austen, C.B.E.

Some account of the state of slavery in Mauritius since the British occupation in 1810 (Mauritius, 1830) by Charles Telfair.

Mauritius, Records of private and public life (1871–1874), (Edinburgh, 1894) by Sir Arthur Hamilton Gordon.

(c) TRAVELS.

Creoles and Coolies ; or five years in Mauritius (London, 1859) by Rev. Patrick Beaton.

Sub-tropical rambles in the land of the Aphanapteryx, (London, 1873) by Colonel Nicholas Pike.

(d) ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL.

Les Indiens à l'Ile Maurice (Mauritius, 1935) by Aunauth Beejadhur.

Report on the prevention of malaria in Mauritius (London, 1908) by Ronald Ross.

Statistics de l'Ile Maurice et ses dépendances (Mauritius-1886) by Baron d'Unienville.

The Sugar Industry of Mauritius. A study in correlation. (London, 1919) by A. Walter.

APPENDIX IV—*continued**Title*

(e) NATURAL HISTORY.

The Dodo and its kindred. (London, 1848) by. H. E. Strickland and A. G. Melville.

Flora of Mauritius and the Seychelles (London, 1877) by J. G. Baker.

Faune malacologique terrestre et fluviatile des îles Mascareignes (Paris, 1921), by Louis Germain.

(f) FOLK LORE.

Les parlers creoles des Mascareignes (Paris, 1891) by A. Dietrich.

Etude sur le patois creole mauricien (Nancy, 1880) by Charles Baissac.

Le folk-lore de l'île Maurice (texte creole et traduction française) (Paris, 1888) by Charles Baissac.

(g) FICTION.

Paul et Virginie. (first edition published in 1838) by Bernardin de Saint Pierre.

Les guepes mauriciennes. (Paris, 1861) by Matou.

The Island, (London, 1914) by Elenor Mordaunt.

Dans les "Eiles la haut" Archipel de Chagos (Mauritius, 1937) by Father Dussercle.

NOTE—A copy of each of these works is available at the Carnegie Library, Curepipe, Mauritius. In England most of them can be consulted in the British Museum and the Colonial Office Library.



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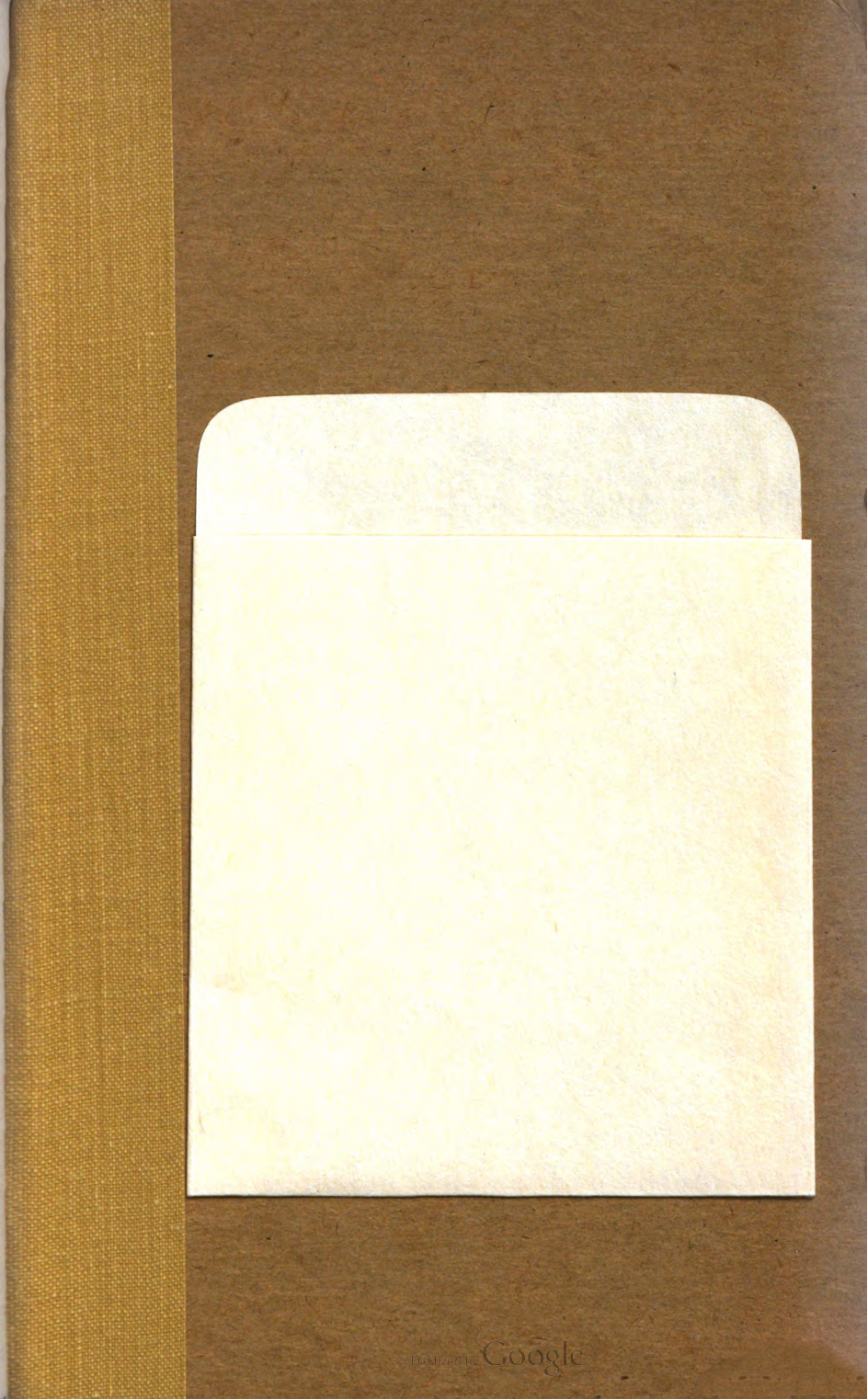
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